

Boat owner condemns ministry officials for 'inept' measurement of nets

Waldegrave pledges to protect tuna fishermen

By JAMES LANDALE in NEWLYN and MICHAEL HORNSBY

CORNISH tuna fishermen received an assurance of protection from the Government yesterday as a naval gunboat, HMS Alderney, sailed for the Bay of Biscay, the scene of attacks by Spanish trawlers last week.

William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, said: "British fishermen have every right to engage in the tuna drift net fishery. The Government will ensure that they can do so peacefully and legally."

"We will stand by our industry. We have shown we enforce the rules properly. There can be no possible reason for our fishermen to be harassed or attacked while on the fishing grounds."

"It is unacceptable that UK flagged vessels should be prevented from legitimate fishing as a result of harassment or damage by other vessels. We will see that they are not."

HMS Alderney is already on station at the fishing grounds, 400 miles south of Land's End.

One trawler, the Silver Harvester, is returning to resume fishing in the Bay of Biscay and another, the Wendy Palfrey, was due to sail last night. Three or four other boats could reach the area by the end of the week if they can repair their nets in time.

Barrie Ball, owner of the Charisma, the trawler arrested by the Royal Navy on suspicion of using illegal nets, yesterday called for the resignation of Mr Waldegrave, whose ministry ordered the Navy to act after being told by a European Commission inspector that the boat was using longer nets than allowed.

Mr Ball said: "He should be sacked for all the bother he has caused us. I feel completely ill with worry." He added that he was thinking of seeking compensation for the damage caused when naval personnel smashed down the Charisma's wheelhouse door.

After a nine-hour voyage from Devonport, where its nets underwent a five-hour

inspection on Sunday night, the Charisma, whose skipper is Mr Ball's son, sailed into Newlyn yesterday.

The inspection showed that the Charisma was carrying drift nets a mere 153 metres longer than the regulation 25km. Agriculture ministry officials were still refusing last night to clear the skipper and the owner formally of any offence, but it is unlikely that the matter will be pursued.

Mr Ball Sr yesterday accused the ministry officials who inspected the nets of ineptitude. "The way they measured them was unbelievable," he said. "It was like how you would measure a piece of material in a shop."

He said the tape measure had been stretched over the top of the 1,100 floats from which the nets are suspended when in the water and that this had added an extra 33 metres on top of the extra 100 metres resulting from natural stretch and stress.

Mr Ball Jr disclosed that he was still under caution for obstructing a fisheries official. He admitted he had been a little "young and hotheaded" during the incident at the weekend when he locked himself in the wheelhouse of his boat after the Navy ordered him to sail for Devonport instead of Newlyn.

Mr Ball said he bore the Navy no ill-will. "They were only doing what they were ordered to do. The man that [broke down the door] was absolutely gutted that he had to do it to a British vessel."

David Harris, Tory MP for St Ives, said yesterday he was satisfied that the presence of two fishery protection vessels would enable British trawlers to fish without fear of being attacked by the Spanish. "If this does not work, we could send in something more like a frigate, but I do not think it will now be necessary," he said.

The Charisma is planning to set sail for the Bay of Biscay tomorrow.



The trawler Charisma returning to Devonport at the weekend with a damaged door after being arrested

Fishing laws far from plain sailing

By MICHAEL HORNSBY and TUNKU VARADARAJAN

CORNISH trawlers will be sailing into tricky legal waters when they return to the rich tuna fishing grounds in the Bay of Biscay later this week.

The area lies outside the exclusive jurisdiction of any state. The freedom of the high seas includes the right to fish provided this is exercised with reasonable regard to the interests of other states.

The European Union, however, has imposed restrictions on vessels fishing for tuna and flying the flag of any of its member states. No vessel "may keep on board or use for fishing one or more drift nets whose individual or total length is more than 2.5 km."

This is designed to reduce the capture of dolphins and other non-target species. British and French trawlers carry legal nets and the Spanish, who have fished for generations in the area, use lines and hooks instead.

In the case of the Charisma, the skipper was found to have a net whose area of mesh measured 153 metres longer than the regulation 2.5 km.

The Agriculture Ministry is still deciding whether to pursue what would seem to be a very minor offence. There are no clear rules on whether any allowance should be made for stretching when the net is wet.

Royal Navy vessels have general powers of visit, search and seizure to ensure that ships flying the British flag comply with international regulations. The seven naval gunboats in the fisheries protection fleet are responsible for enforcing the law on fishing. Other EU member states are similarly required to police their fishing vessels.

There is no doubt that HMS Alderney acted within its rights in arresting the Charisma. Equally, however, British vessels have a right to expect protection from the Royal Navy against interference from foreign boats.

British warships have the right to detain a foreign ship,

in exercise of self-defence, if it attacks a British-registered vessel. This right could reasonably have been invoked in the recent incidents involving Spanish trawlers which deliberately damaged British nets.

In addition, the Royal Navy may intervene in the event of an act of piracy. Article 15 of the 1958 Geneva Convention on the High Seas defines piracy as "any illegal acts of violence... committed for private ends by the crew of a private ship... and directed against another ship...". Some of the attacks on British trawlers' nets might be regarded as piracy.

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Five held over crash that orphaned boy

Five men were under arrest last night over the deaths of the parents of a four-year-old boy in a crash involving a stolen car. Thomas Mansell was orphaned when the car he was in was struck head-on by a Vauxhall Cavalier on the A48 at Laleston, Mid Glamorgan. Police are investigating reports from motorists that the Cavalier, which had been stolen from a pub car park, and another vehicle appeared to be racing each other moments before the crash. Lawrence Mansell, 36, a Ford company chemist, and his wife Susan, 37, a local government administrator, died on the way to hospital. Thomas, their only son, was last night said to be comfortable in hospital with arm injuries. He was saved by his child safety seat. The family had been returning home from a day trip on Saturday.

Two men who were pulled from the wreckage of the Cavalier were last night under police guard awaiting questioning at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. They were seriously injured in the crash. Three other men, said to have been travelling closely behind the stolen car, are being held at Bridgend police station. The five men are aged between 19 and 28 and from the South Wales area. Police want to interview a sixth man.

Part-time soldier killed

A Republican gunman yesterday shot dead a part-time corporal in the Royal Irish Regiment. Thomas Withers, 46, a Protestant, was serving customers in his butcher's shop in Crossgar, Co Down, when the gunman opened fire. A witness said the victim fell as he tried to escape into the back of the shop. "By the time I came in to give him some help there was blood and he was still alive. But about two minutes later he died," Mr Withers was married with five grown-up children. The gunman escaped on a motorcycle ridden by an accomplice.

Row over Three Graces

The owner of Canova's Three Graces will seek a judicial review if the Government allows another deferral of its application for an export licence. A lawyer for Fine Art Investments, the company that has provisionally sold the sculpture to the Getty Museum in California, said yesterday that the export application rules had been manipulated many times. The deadline for a British institution to match the purchase price of £7.6 million expired on Friday. Luc Hafner said: "There should be an end to this. If they change the rules again, I'll ask the courts to look into the matter."

George Michael appeals

The pop singer George Michael filed an appeal yesterday in the latest round of his multi-million-pound legal battle to break free from his record company, Sony. Michael, 30, is to ask the Court of Appeal to overturn Mr Justice Parker's ruling in June that his 1988 contract with Sony was not a restraint of trade and was not financially weighted against him or ultimately unenforceable. His appeal will be based on the grounds that his contract amounts to restraint of trade and is void under Article 85 of the European Union Treaty. His legal costs are already estimated at £3 million.

Burglar gets 10 years

Thomas Wood, 32, was jailed by Reading Crown Court for ten years yesterday after admitting aggravated burglary on September 6 last year. The court was told that Wood, of Reading, and an accomplice bound and gagged a shopkeeper after bursting into her bedroom. They daubed racist slogans on the wall and left her tied up after demanding the keys to her shop. Michael Skelley, for the prosecution, described Wood's "appalling" list of previous convictions and said he had once caused the death of an elderly woman by leaving her tied to her bed after a raid.

Bishop's wife dies



The wife of the bishop who said health service reforms were unchristian, distressing and morally wrong, died of cancer yesterday. Dr Henriette Santer, left, was a key influence on the critical sermon by the Rt Rev Mark Santer, Bishop of Birmingham, at the city's cathedral last month. Mrs Santer, 62, who died at her home after a four-month illness, was a clinical psychologist in the health service.

Jury sees bathroom

An Old Bailey jury yesterday inspected the bathroom where a two-year-old girl suffered horrific burns from scalding water. Tega Unnajokwhofa died hours later in hospital. Toyin Taiwo, 26, of Camberwell, south London, who was looking after the child, denies murder and an alternative charge of manslaughter.

Shotgun kills boy, 3

A boy aged three was killed yesterday when his father's shotgun went off as his 13-year-old brother was apparently cleaning it. Alastair Gemmell was found dead in a bedroom at home in Auchinleck, Strathclyde. The accident happened while the boy's mother was in another room. Police said a report would be sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

Thirsty work for jobless

The cider maker H.P. Bulmer has advertised at a Hereford JobCentre for 20 tasters to check its drinks. The work pays £5 an hour, training will be provided and no experience is needed. The recruits will perform the blind tastings on two mornings, a week sitting alone in cubicles recording their verdicts on a computer. A Bulmer's spokesman said: "We are expecting a lot of applicants. Sadly this is not a jolly or a drinking session but a serious piece of research work." Like wine tasters, they would have to acquire a nose for cider: "You don't just gulp it down."

Jobs 'at risk' if rail dispute is not ended soon

By NICHOLAS WOOD and ROSS TIEMAN

JOBS and rail services could be damaged irreparably by the nine-week signallers' dispute. Brian Mawhinney said yesterday as he urged the warring sides to reopen negotiations immediately. The Transport Secretary's words followed a warning from Chris Green, the head of ScotRail, that it would take two years to recover from the effects of the weekly walkouts.

Mr Mawhinney spoke as Railtrack appealed directly to the strikers to press for a ballot to end the disruption, and as Jimmy Knapp, leader of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union promised a fresh effort to avoid the next wave of strikes, due at the weekend.

Mr Knapp promised to respond through the arbitration service Acas to a letter last week from the Railtrack chairman, Bob Horton, that appeared to indicate greater flexibility in consolidating productivity gains into basic pay.

In an interview with The Times, Dr Mawhinney said that the dispute had to be settled within the limits of the Government's public sector pay policy but he appeared not entirely to be the negotiators' hands. He hinted that he

might yet be convinced that past productivity gains could be taken into account. His position contrasted slightly with the Government's previous line that the proposed restructuring deal would have to be linked to future productivity gains.

He criticised the union, saying the public were beginning to wonder if it was laying down preconditions for talks. "The strike is inconveniencing a large number of people. It is in danger of damaging the railway industry, and if that happens not only will it affect the possibility of jobs, perhaps even services, but it will also affect the views of business and industry, who may shift goods and transportation towards roads. The railways may find it difficult to get that business back."

Mr Horton has made it clear that he is willing to go into a room and throw away the key. But there appears to be a reluctance by RMT to engage in those sort of discussions.

Mr Knapp insisted that more clarification was needed: "We have not reached a situation where formal negotiations with Railtrack can start."

School literature list 'unconvincing'

By BEN PRESTON EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PLANS requiring state school pupils to study classic literature as part of the new English curriculum are flawed, school inspectors said yesterday.

The Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) criticised the strategy of prescribing a list of authors, rather than specifying compulsory novels or poems, as lax and unconvincing.

The intervention shatters the uneasy compromise devised by government education advisers in the face of

determined opposition from English teachers to a compulsory literary canon.

The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority had deliberately avoided making it a requirement to study individual books or poems as part of the new curriculum in an attempt to pacify the most militant section of the profession.

But Ofsted said the authority's alternative strategy risked conferring as much legitimacy on the study of, for example, poor-quality poems by Shelley or Wordsworth as on their best work. The inspec-

tors said: "It is unlikely that in practice it will bring much additional benefit in extending the range of pupils' reading and may well prove to be counter-productive."

They also attacked the inclusion of Shakespeare as the only prescribed playwright in the draft English curriculum. This could be "interpreted as according drama a lower status than fiction or poetry."

Under the authority's proposals, pupils in secondary schools will be required to read works from prescribed lists of authors and poets from September 1995. Teachers

would choose a total of four works from a list of 21 pre-20th century authors such as Jane Austen, Daniel Defoe and H.G. Wells, and of 41 modern authors including George Orwell and Doris Lessing. Pupils would also be required to study the works of three modern poets from a list of 39, and two poets whose work had been published before 1900.

Ofsted's criticisms were made as part of the official consultation period. Final curriculum proposals will be sent for the approval to Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, next month.

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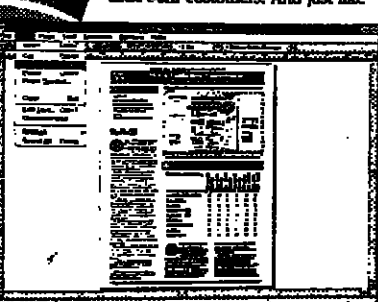
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Hatred and greed drove officer to kill his parents

By LIN JENKINS

WHEN Roderick and Mark Newall entertained their parents to a surprise birthday dinner for their mother at a plush Jersey restaurant, onlookers saw them as the ordinary sons of a contented, middle-class couple.

One was an officer in command of his own platoon in the Royal Green Jackets, the other a successful financier with a considerable flair for making money. Their parents were sociable, devoted to each other and had enough money not to have to work, a yacht and homes in the Channel Islands and Spain.

But the facade concealed festering resentments, deep contempt and naked greed which led the older son to "judge" his parents to death that night and his younger brother to help conceal the crime.

Roderick Newall, jailed yesterday for life, had planned the murders with the precision commensurate with his Sandhurst training. A pickaxe he had bought that morning along with items needed to bury the bodies was sunk in the back of his father's head. His father had also been thrashed with a metal rice flail, a martial arts weapon. His mother sustained multiple fractures to her skull.

Nicholas Newall, 56, a Lloyd's name and his wife Elizabeth, 47, cancelled a planned dinner with friends on Saturday, October 10, 1987, when their sons unexpectedly turned up in Jersey and in-

vited them out to celebrate their mother's birthday on the following Thursday.

The family drank two bottles of champagne before leaving for the Sea Crest Hotel, Petit Port, where they drank wine and were spotted at table 17 by other diners arguing. Mark, who had not been drinking, drove them back to the bungalow at Clos de l'Atlantique.

What happened next is unclear. While both sons made statements, police believe they are only partial accounts. There are only four people

before. He pushed me and I fell, hitting my head on the dining room table. I fell beside a box of my possessions which I had earlier sorted out and removed from the attic. On top of the box was a pair of rice flails which I grabbed and used to strike my father. I remember him falling.

"My next memory is of finding myself sitting on the floor of the hall. I got up and went into the sitting room and saw my father's body. I could not find a pulse. In a complete panic, I checked the kitchen and then the bedroom where I

home — La Falaise in Normant Lane, St Brelade — and threatened suicide. Later, using a Renault van hired by their father that day to help Mark move furniture, the sons ferried the bodies to the burial place near their former family home, The Crow's Nest.

They used the items bought at the builder's merchant for £103.42 — two trenching spades, two plastic tarpaulins (one green and one blue), two torches and batteries, two packets of heavy-duty, red rubbish sacks, a pickaxe, two modelling knives, a saw, rope and a can of upholstery cleaner. Identical sacks and tarpaulins were found around the bodies.

On the Sunday morning, the couple's close friend, Maureen Eham, called round to pass on to Elizabeth some of the many flowers she had been given for her own birthday the previous day. Roderick answered the door and said his parents were still in bed. The brothers left the island later that day.

Roderick and Mark, who were jailed for six years, shared a contempt for their parents and could be openly condescending. The feeling was reciprocated, by Mr Newall at least, who always referred to them as "Elizabeth's boys".

But if it was deep-seated hatred that led Roderick to murder his parents, then money was the catalyst. The brothers stood to inherit £900,000.

On box was a pair of rice flails which I grabbed and used to strike my father. I remember him falling. I found my mother's body. I could find no pulse. I realised I had killed both my parents

who know the whole truth of this case," said Paul Marks, Assistant Chief Officer of Jersey police. "Two of them are dead."

Roderick claimed he attacked his parents only after a violent row which evoked bitter childhood memories, a version of events that failed to account for the purchase earlier in the day at a builder's merchant in St Helier.

He told police: "It came to a head with my father and I standing face to face as I told him what I thought of him, things which I had never said

found my mother's body, which triggered my memory of also attacking her with the flail and her falling. I could find no pulse. I then realised I had killed both my parents."

However, after the bodies were recovered in November, 1993, from their makeshift graves at Greve de Leon, post mortem examinations discovered they had been drugged with phenobarbitone. Neither parent was prescribed the drug, which promotes drowsiness.

Roderick maintained that he called his brother at his

Younger brother had head for finance

WHEN Mark Newall was arrested in Paris for the murder of his parents five years and five months after they disappeared, the receipt for the family's final meal together in Jersey on the night of the deaths was found in his flat.

Mark chose not to fight his extradition and on April 30, 1993, he was handed over to Det Insp Martin Elmerald of Jersey police and flown to Jersey. He was charged later that day, declined to make a statement and protested his innocence.

On November 9, three days after Roderick Newall was brought back, Mark was charged with two counts of assisting his brother after the fact and the murder charges were dropped on February 23, 1994.

Mark, who had been the introverted, bookish and self-sufficient one of the brothers at school, had proved good at making money. After joining Barclaytrust in Jersey in 1984, he moved to Sheppards two years later as a trainee Eurobond dealer, also working for the parent company, Banque Arabe et Internationale d'Investissements (BAII), first in London and then Paris.

Mark, the younger brother who never had a girlfriend, displayed many of the trappings of wealth, always travelling club class and keeping an account at Harrods.

Acquaintances say his only passion was wealth. If not in the office he would sit through the night keeping up with the international money markets.

Gaye, tricked Roderick Newall into making a confession over tea in a luxury Scottish hotel.

Mr Marks described the confession in Room 138 of the Dunkeld House Hotel, outside Perth, as "staggering stuff of bodies wrapped in plastic and concealed graves".

The police had promised the Newalls that they would not arrest Roderick Newall in front of them. They also needed a warrant, but Philip Bailhache, the Jersey Attorney General, questioned both the integrity of the taped confession and its admissibility and said he would have to hear it.

Roderick Newall, a former soldier with experience in Northern Ireland and trained in evasion tactics, lost his police tail and slipped out of Britain. A warrant was issued three days later.

The early mistakes referred to by Mr Marks included a reluctance to treat the disappearance of the Newalls as suspicious. Even when police presented evidence which pointed to the Newalls having met a violent end, it was decided there was not enough with which to proceed.



Helena Pedro, and the book that prompted confession



Tormented son told a tale of murder

RODERICK Newall was a bright, charismatic and good-looking young man whose efforts to be popular were successful at school, in the army and with women.

But beneath the outward charm and sociability, there lurked a deep insecurity combined with an entrenched morality that made living with his crime too great a burden to share only with his brother Mark.

The nagging guilt and weakness of resolve that led him to tell his aunt and uncle had overcome him before. When the extradition hearing in Gibraltar looked like declaring the confession to his relatives inadmissible, Jersey Police found he had made an earlier one to a Brazilian girlfriend while sailing on his yacht.

As he coddled Helena Pedro, a 35-year-old divorcee, he asked her to fetch a copy of Hermann Hesse's novel *The Glass Bead Game*.

He read aloud from a well-thumbed passage: "Oh! He

thought in grief and horror, now I am guilty of death. With that he began to weep. Grabbing Ms Pedro by the shoulders, he told her: 'I am a murderer.'"

Ms Pedro, an English teacher, said his explanation for the crime was that he had never forgiven his parents, Nicholas and Elizabeth Newall, for sending him to boarding school at the age of seven.

Maureen Eham, the family's best friend on Jersey and owner of their former home, The Crow's Nest, said: "They were four very different people, four very volatile people. Nick and Mark silently seethed with anger at each other. Elizabeth and Roderick were two shouters and bawlers. There were clashes all the time over everything."

She said the Newall's marriage was a good one, founded on deep love. "But they treated their sons so coldly that if you treated your dog like they treated Mark you would be reported to the RSPCA."

Police admit to mistakes

By LIN JENKINS

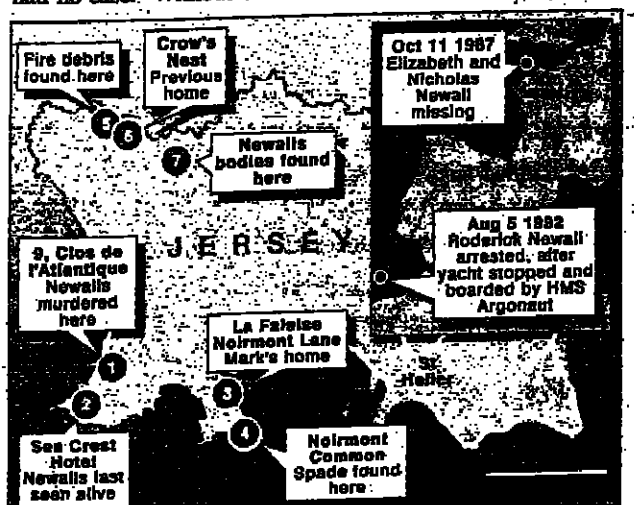
JERSEY Police who finally trapped Roderick Newall into confessing to the murders of his parents admit that some of the criticism levelled at them over the case was justified.

Paul Marks, Assistant Chief Constable, said: "It is fair to say there were mistakes made. But without a confession that case would never have come to court. I would be the first to admit mistakes were made, not just in the early stages."

He said that at the time they had no case. "Without bodies

any murder inquiry is difficult. You have to prove that two people have died." Without the confession, there would have been no arrest, despite the long-held conviction among police working on the case that the Newall parents were dead and their sons were implicated.

It was four years and nine months after Nicholas Newall and his wife Elizabeth vanished that the police, with the help of Mr Newall's twin brother Stephen and his wife



Roderick Newall with the parents he hated at their Jersey home. Money was the catalyst for their murders

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Hull heads south as civil servants confuse Kingstons

By Robin Young

GOVERNMENT officials yesterday admitted making an extraordinary gaffe by confusing Kingston upon Hull with Kingston upon Thames in a league table of the most deprived local authorities. The error could have cost Hull millions of pounds.

The northern, and to some degree deprived, city of Kingston upon Hull (Hull for short) was immediately claimed that it was in danger of being doubly disadvantaged because of the Department of Environment's mistake in mixing it up with southern, and perfectly comfortable, Kingston upon Thames.

That was because the mistake was made in preparing a league table of the local authorities in Britain most in need, which helps to determine government grants.

Hull city spokesmen claimed that the clerical errors which led to the confusion could cost their city heavily in the government grants which it might lose as a result.

The department, while admitting embarrassment at its mistakes, insisted that they would not cost Kingston upon

Hull, however impecunious it might feel, a single penny more.

The errors occurred when Hull was confused with the southern Kingston under two headings in the Government's *Index of Local Conditions*, which was published in May. The index helps to determine which local authorities have the most pressing need for grants to combat deprivation.

A DoE spokesman said that two figures in the index's 18 pages of tables had been transposed between the two Kingstons. One related to long-term unemployment, and the other to educational attainment, assessed by GCSE pass rates.

As a result the northern Kingston was ranked only 50th most in need of help among the 366 local authorities in England, when it should have been placed 31st.

The southern Kingston, generally better provided for, was lifted to 124th place from 169th. The errors, having escaped attention entirely in the government grants which it might lose as a result.

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Thames, however impecunious it might feel, a single penny more.

MoD clerk 'raped on warship'

By A Staff Reporter

A YOUNG Defence Ministry clerk was raped by a senior military policeman during a tour of his ship, a court was told yesterday.

The woman, a 20-year-old virgin, was invited aboard the Type 23 frigate *HMS Marlborough* for a drinks party after it visited London's docklands. She was allegedly raped after being lured to the cabin of Barry Chamberlain, 41, the ship's Master-At-Arms, who is the most senior policeman aboard a warship.

Plymouth Crown Court was told that MAA Chamberlain claimed that the victim consented to sex, even though he knew it was against Navy rules to have sex in his cabin.

Jeremy Donne, for the prosecution, said that the woman worked as a clerk at the

Ministry of Defence in the Services Booking Centre—the MoD travel agents, where MAA Chamberlain had also worked. When the ship came to London last March he invited friends and colleagues on board for a drink. The complainant joined a party of five to visit the ship, which was based at Devonport.

She had drunk only about a quarter of a pint of lager before she went on a tour with MAA Chamberlain, which ended at his cabin. Mr Donne said: "He subjected this defendant to a humiliating, distressing ordeal. She was shocked, surprised and frightened. She made it clear she did not want to take part."

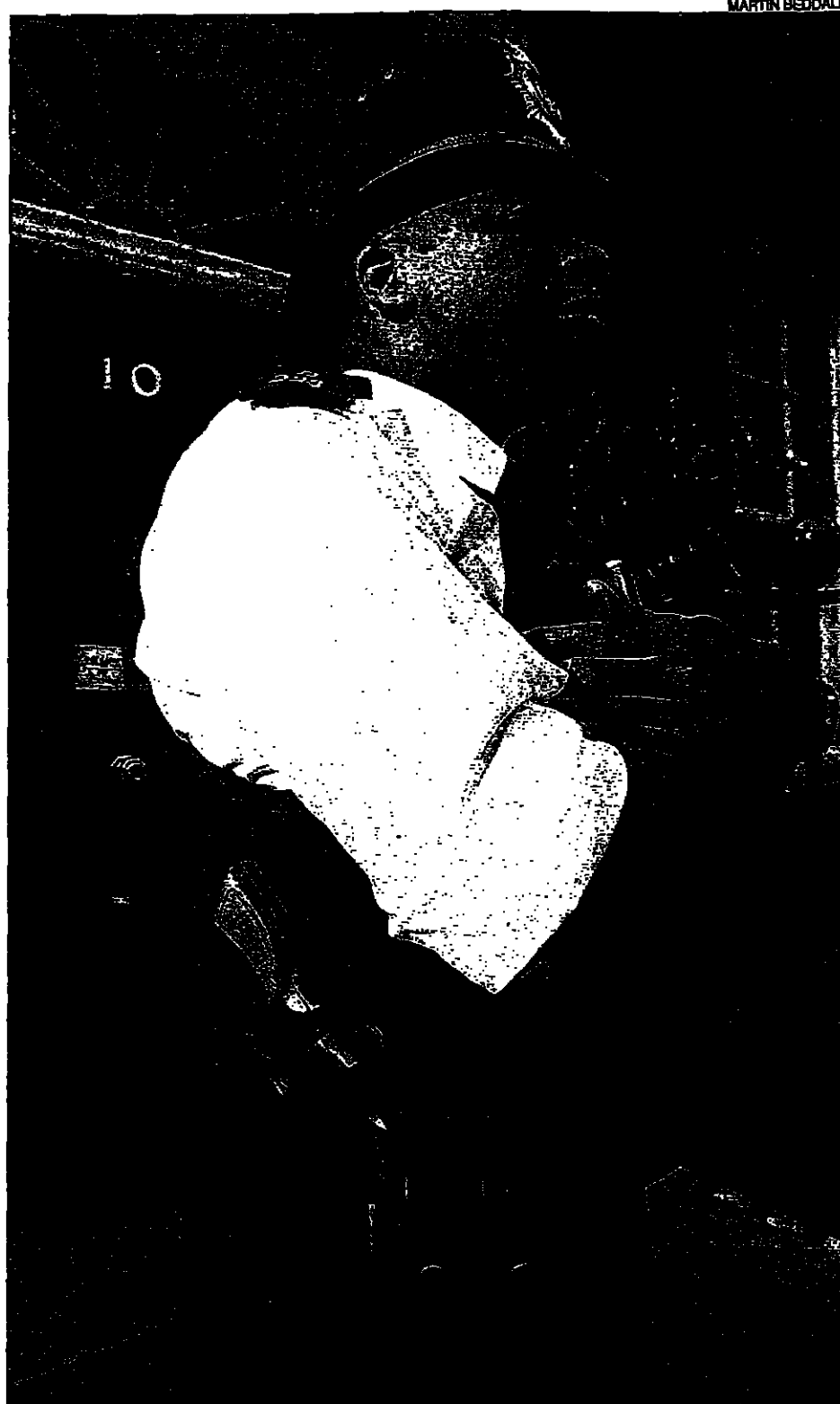
She later told two girlfriends what had allegedly happened and the Navy au-

thorities and police were called. MAA Chamberlain, from Huntingdon, was arrested. He told police that he had "behaved stupidly" in having a woman in his cabin, but was at pains to say that she was "an experienced, forthcoming young woman". Mr Donne said.

Medical tests showed that her injuries were consistent with a rape complaint, the jury was told.

The woman, whose mother sat beside her in court, broke down as she gave evidence. She said that she did not have a boyfriend and had never had sex before.

Chamberlain denies rape, attempted rape and indecent assault. The trial continues today when the complainant is expected to be cross-examined.



Officers guarding 10 Downing Street may now wear their weapons openly

Bristling guns at Number 10

By Stewart Tandler
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

GUNS are to be worn openly by hundreds of police officers guarding Downing Street, government buildings and VIPs under new police rules.

The decision follows a review of police safety completed in May after a series of IRA attacks in London. It comes into effect a few weeks after Middle Eastern bombers attacked the Israeli Embassy and the offices of a Jewish charity.

Earlier this year Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, said that officers manning armed response cars would carry their revolvers openly on their belts. Now the guns of 430 members of Scotland Yard's Diplomatic Patrol Group (DPG) will also be visible.

Until now the officers have had to keep the guns hidden under coats or tucked in their pockets. There have been protests from officers that this might make it difficult for them to reach their weapons in an emergency.

Man in eighties stabbed to death 'over a woman'

By Stewart Tandler

DETECTIVES investigating the murder of a man in his eighties believe he may have been stabbed to death by another man over a younger woman.

Warwick Batchelor, a retired senior industrial manager with a love of opera and good living, was attacked outside his home, a private block of flats at Hassocks, below the South Downs in West Sussex. Last night police were interviewed a man of 67.

Detective Superintendent Brian Foster said: "Robbery does not appear to be the motive for the killing. We are looking into the background of both men and their relationships. We will be looking at their friendships, including that of a woman."

Mr Foster confirmed that police had interviewed a 51-year-old woman friend of Mr Batchelor.

Mr Batchelor's daughter, Valerie Bish, said yesterday: "I can't believe anyone would do this. Everyone loved my dad."

Her father had moved to Hassocks a year ago to be nearer to her. She said: "He was so happy and really enjoying life. It is so awful. He

was a member of the University of the Third Age, a group for pensioners, and he was due to go to France with them. His bags were all packed."

"I phoned him and he was out and I left a message telling him to have a lovely holiday. He was friendly with a lot of women through the group, including a woman in her fifties who was going away with them."

At Mr Batchelor's home, yesterday the chairwoman of the residents' association, Jean Deakin, said: "He was such a lovely man, a gentleman in the true sense of the word. He was a very intelligent man who was popular with the ladies. It is a terrible, terrible tragedy. Mr Batchelor died instantly, believe me."

She added: "I would often pop down for a sherry or a chat. He had just joined the residents' maintenance sub-committee and was a member of our bridge club."

"He couldn't do enough for people. I found him quite charming. He was very active, despite having had a heart bypass operation. He was an excellent cook and regularly held dinner parties."

Boy cleared of rape is convicted of assault

By A Staff Reporter

A BOY aged 14 was convicted yesterday of indecently assaulting a teenage girl only three days after the same court acquitted him of raping her.

Defence lawyers immediately said they wanted the case sent to the Divisional Court of the High Court in London to challenge the decision on the ground that the magistrates misdirected themselves on the law.

The boy, who was 13 at the time of the offence, was released on bail until today by the St Edmundsbury Youth Court, sitting at Newmarket, Suffolk.

The youth court will transfer to Stowmarket today to consider legal issues, including the assault sentence.

Geoffrey Wicks, chairman of the court, said he and the two lay magistrates had found the evidence from the girl about the assault to be "wholly credible and reliable".

No new evidence was brought by the prosecution yesterday on the indecency allegation.

Rosamund Horwood-Smart, for the prosecution, relied on the same evidence the magistrates had heard for five days last week and on which they acquitted the boy, from Mildenhall, Suffolk, of rape.

The case has covered hundreds of miles over the past week. It opened in Bury St Edmunds a week ago, moved to Great Yarmouth for three days to allow the girl to give evidence over a video link, and then transferred to Newmarket. Tomorrow it sits at Stowmarket.

The case is the third involving an under-age boy accused of rape to be heard by youth courts.

Beatty woos Hepburn into taking cameo role

By Dalia Alberg
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

KATHARINE Hepburn has proved as susceptible to the charms of Warren Beatty as other women.

Beatty, 57, showered Hepburn with invitations to persuade her to appear in his latest film, according to this month's *Vanity Fair*.

When flowers did not do the trick, he sent a private jet to take Hepburn, 84, from New York to the set in California and hired a house for her near his own during the shooting.

According to Dominick Dunne of *Vanity Fair*, friends of Hepburn disclosed that her reason for initially turning down Beatty, who is producing and stars in *Love Affair*, was that she had never taken a supporting role: she had always played the lead.

Eventually, however, he won her over and she agreed to take a cameo role in the film, a remake of the 1957 Cary Grant film *An Affair To Remember*, itself based on a 1939 film.

Beatty described Hepburn, star of countless classics, as an inspiration.



Beatty: producer and star of new film

Two held on suspicion of making bombs

By A Staff Reporter

TWO men suspected of making bombs inside an empty manor house were being questioned by police last night.

The two, both from north London, were held after they were discovered by a security guard patrolling the manor house in Wokingham, Berkshire.

Police last night confirmed that a quantity of materials for bomb making, including weedkiller, had been recovered but could not say whether there was any terrorist connection. Nearly 200 homes were evacuated after an army bomb disposal team was called in to search the Grade II listed 15-bedroom house which is scheduled for development as flats.

A spokesman for Thames

Valley police said that two men, aged 20 and 25, had been arrested on suspicion of making bombs.

"At this stage we do not know if there is a terrorist connection. Early signs don't indicate one but things can change," the spokesman said.

The security guard managed to detain one of the men and the second was arrested soon afterwards.

Police are working on the theory that the men were "overgrown children" who had decided to experiment with making bombs. It is thought that they were in the area because one of their friends lived near by and would have known that the manor house was empty.

Call of the drunken peacock

HENRY, the fugitive peacock, is driving villagers to despair by keeping them awake at night with his drunken cries after eating corn soaked in malt whisky.

The alcoholic feed was designed to subdue the bird so his owner, George Hope, 68, could recapture him, but Henry has developed a taste for the bait.

Now the residents of Hauxley, Northumberland, have been inundated by Mr Hope with complaints about late-night garden raids and calls to a female peacock two fields away.

Henry's female companion, Henrietta, is said to be pining and he in turn appears to be missing his companion. The fugitive, with a dram or two inside him, fills the night air with his plaintive cries.

Henry made his dash for freedom six weeks ago. Gangs of villagers have formed teams to catch him, but every attempt has proved fruitless. Norman Pringle, 48, said: "He's become a real nuisance. He gets on people's roofs, roams around their gardens and screams his drunken head off."

Cash for molested worker

By A Staff Reporter

A WOMAN sacked after being indecently assaulted at work by her employer was yesterday awarded sexual harassment damages of more than £34,000 by an industrial tribunal.

Jeffrey Tucker, 31, director of a London courier company, exposed himself and pushed the woman against a wall before attacking her. While on bail for the assault, Tucker sacked the mother of two and refused to pay her money owing from her £180 a week job as cashier and bookkeeper.

Tucker was convicted of two indecent assaults and jailed for 18 months after the woman was wired up by police to tape Tucker apologising to her.

Following the assaults, between October 1992 and February 1993, the woman received medication for insomnia and anxiety and suffered a suspected stomach ulcer brought on by stress.

The 41-year-old woman, the only female at the firm, told the tribunal: "I still haven't found another job. I have been feeling very low and depressed about the whole situation. I contemplated an overdose and had feelings of guilt. I had severe bad noises in my head like ringing and at one point I

smashed my face with my fist."

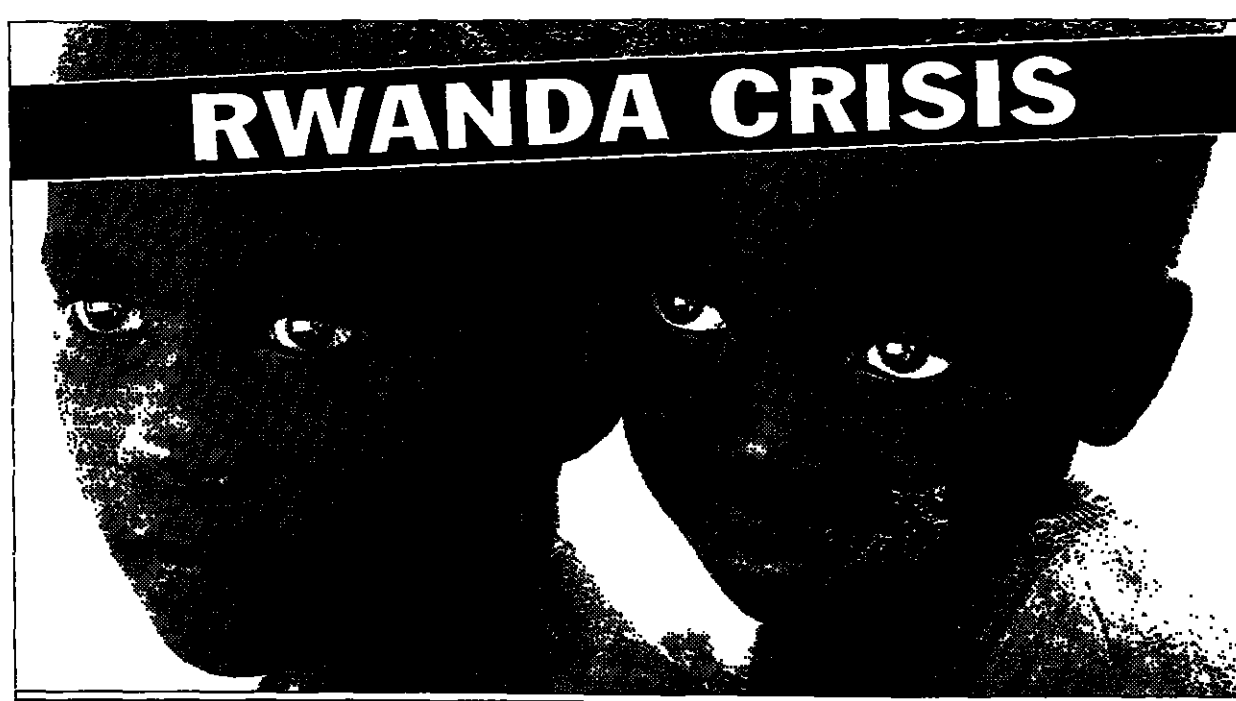
Tomas Lo, of Welling, southeast London, joint owner of the now-defunct company, told the tribunal: "I accept she was harassed and discriminated against because of her sex, but the reason for dismissal was purely financial."

The tribunal awarded the woman £34,160 in total, of which £11,000 was specifically against Tucker for the sexual harassment, with a further £12,960 for lost wages from April last year when she was dismissed. She was awarded a

further £5,200 for future lost earnings at the rate of £100 a week for the next year, when she would be fit for work again.

She also received another £5,000 for the "added insult" of being sacked following the indecent assaults. Speaking after the case, the woman said: "I am happy with the award, and I will be trying to get work as soon as possible, but I would never work in an all-male environment again."

Tucker, of Eodes, Kent, was released from jail last month, but did not appear yesterday.



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Minister demands urgent report on boy chalet burglar

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE social services minister last night called for an urgent report into the case of a young offender who was sent to a holiday village as part of the therapy to cure him of crime and who broke into nine chalets and stole goods worth thousands of pounds. Earlier, directors of the complex lodged a formal protest with the local authority responsible for the 14-year-old.

John Bowis, demanding the report from Essex County Council, said local authorities had to be conscious that any treatment of young offenders "should not be seen as a reward for misbehaviour". It was for local authorities to determine the treatment of children in their care, includ-

ing those who had committed offences. But, he added: "I would expect their decision to be informed by professional advice and a consideration of the most cost-effective use of resources."

Peter Moore, managing director of Center Parcs, is demanding a public inquiry after he said he was deceived into accepting the young burglar, who was accompanied by two adult "minders".

He said yesterday: "We were led to believe this was a normal family — two parents and a son. It beggars belief that people in authority can behave in such a dishonest way. Just imagine the feelings of guests who come to us who discover that social do-gooders

are sneaking in known offenders as the nation's expense."

Essex County Council had referred the boy to the Hearsdene Trust, which specialises in rehabilitating young offenders. The Stevenage-based trust took the decision to take the boy to the holiday complex at Elveden, Suffolk.

The county council, which was not informed about the £400 holiday, has suspended its links with the four-year-old registered charity. "No other youngster has been sent to the trust since this came to light earlier this year," a spokesman said. "Our future dealings with the trust will be discussed at the next meeting of the county council's social services committee."

Mr Moore, in a prepared statement, said: "I am appalled at the mindless judgement of the social workers behind this decision. It is sheer lunacy to bring a person of such known criminal character to our village. It makes matters worse to argue it is some form of therapy."

The families whose chalets were broken into during the £3,000, two-day spree had been compensated and offered free holidays at the complex. Mr Moore added: "Is it any wonder people are bewildered by the inept decisions made by the authorities every day?"

Hearsdene is chaired by Andrew Roakes, the chairman of the finance and general purposes committee of the United Nations Association. He was unavailable for comment and Christopher Tasker, the chief executive, said: "It would be unprofessional to comment at this time." A full response would be made when he had consulted his colleagues.

The charity has four or five small residential units which accommodate persistent young offenders. The Essex boy, who is now in secure accommodation outside the county because he continued to abscond, had stayed at the trust's six-bedroom house in Stevenage for 18 weeks, from March to the end of July. The final cost to the council is expected to be up to £50,000.



The Yorks meet sporting commentator Neil Durden-Smith at Wenworth

Duchess says humiliating photographs humbled her

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE Duchess of York has admitted that she was completely humiliated by the publication of photographs of herself and her friend John Bryan in the now-notorious "toe-sucking" pose last year.

In an interview with an Australian women's magazine, the duchess describes the episode, captured on film while the couple were on holiday at a villa in St Tropez, as the most humiliating experience of her life. But she says that, in retrospect, she is glad that it happened; it knocked everything out of her.

Publication of the interview yesterday coincided with the duchess and her estranged husband, the Duke of York, meeting at a charity golf

tournament at Wenworth, Surrey, in which the duke was competing. The couple met only briefly, but embraced warmly. Since their separation in March 1992, there have been frequent unsubstantiated rumours that they were seeking a reconciliation.

In her Australian interview, the duchess says that when she first saw the pictures of herself and Mr Bryan she had to have a large brandy. "The duchess confesses in the interview that she had been cursed with a massive ego and little self-control."

"During the first years of my marriage I probably had an excessive ego. The St Tropez photos forced me to change and care more for others than

myself. I have no discipline whatsoever when I find myself in front of good food and a glass of wine. I am not a saint, or an angel. I am a normal modern woman."

The duchess suggests that others within royal circles, whom she declines to name, were much less supportive of her position as a newcomer to the tight circle of royalty. "I think that with a little less hostility and a little more support, things could have been easier, less difficult and traumatic," she says.

During the interview with *Woman's Day* the duchess declined to answer any question on whether she and the duke would eventually divorce.

Ex-soldier 'confesses' to killing millionaire

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A FORMER British soldier has admitted killing a German millionaire who suspected him of having an affair with his wife, a German prosecutor said yesterday.

The man, aged 39, from Plymouth, who was identified only as James P, had grown close to the millionaire's wife and two sons after giving them karate lessons at a British Army base near Düsseldorf, the prosecutor, Johannes Mocken, said.

Joachim Duesterberg, 42, head of a frozen food company, suspected Mr P of having an affair with his American wife Dorothy, also 42.

He invited Mr P to his home in Düsseldorf last Thursday and offered him an envelope containing 25,000 marks (£10,000) if he would leave the area, according to the confession Mr P is said to have given to prosecutors.

Herr Duesterberg "had problems with his wife and felt alienated from his sons", Herr Mocken said. "He felt that James P had become closer to them than he was."

At one point Herr Duesterberg pulled out a knife and threatened to kill his own children. Mr P is said to have told the prosecutors. He said that he took the knife away and stabbed Herr Duesterberg repeatedly in the chest and throat.

After washing the blood from his hands, he came back to find Herr Duesterberg still breathing and strangled him with a tie. He then fled in his Mercedes.

The Duesterbergs' sons, aged 8 and 9, were elsewhere in the house when the struggle occurred and were not aware of what was going on, Herr Mocken said.

Frau Duesterberg, who was not home at the time, arrived to find her husband's body on stairs leading to the house.

Mr P surrendered to police. Mr P had been in an army transport company for several years and left some months ago to set up a school to teach karate and provide bodyguards to German industrialists in the Düsseldorf area. He is being held on investigation of murder. However, it could be a year before the case comes to trial.



Otis in custody during two-year legal battle

'Dangerous' dog wins further stay of execution

BY EMMA WILKINS

A DOG that was due to be destroyed under the Dangerous Dogs Act was given a last-minute stay of execution yesterday, minutes before its owner arrived at a police station expecting to collect the body.

Henry Bates, 38, of Clapton, east London, who says his dog Otis is a good-natured Great Dane-pit bull cross-breed, plans to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights against the destruction order.

The four-year-old dog will remain in kennels at Limehouse police station, east London, pending further legal action. After a brief discussion with officers, Mr Bates emerged and said his solicitor was to be given written details of the dog's pedigree. He said: "I am in a no-win situation. They have passed the buck again. Yet again, no length of time has been given for the reprieve."

Mr Bates, a car technician, was fined £100 by Bow Street magistrates two years ago after police discovered Otis, unmuzzled and unleashed, on the seat of his car during a routine spot-check in the Blackwall Tunnel, east London. Magistrates ordered Otis to be destroyed under the terms of the Dangerous Dogs Act, introduced in 1991.

Mr Bates's appeal to the High Court was rejected last year on the ground that the inside of his car could be deemed to be a public place for the purposes of the Act.

Mr Bates, who faces an estimated legal bill of about £20,000, intends to argue at the European court that his human rights were breached when Otis was seized.

Superglue attack on deaf mute girl

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A DEAF mute teenager was attacked by her mother yesterday and a man who squirted superglue in her eyes. The girl was recovering at home yesterday after waiting 12 hours for doctors to open her eyelids.

Lorraine Cattarius, 36, was attacked at a bus stop in Liverpool late on Sunday. The trio asked her the time and when she signed that she could not hear or speak, her head was wrenched back and glue squeezed into her eyes.

Miss Cattarius took a 15-minute bus ride to her home and her mother Sue took her to Royal Liverpool Teaching Hospital. She had to wait until yesterday morning for a specialist to open her eyes.

Merseyside Police said: "The doctors and nurses were not able to get her eyes open immediately and she had to suffer through the whole night before treatment could continue. Fortunately she had blinked as they squirted the glue into her eyes, so it went on to the lids and not the eyeballs, but she must have been terrified."

Using hand signs interpret-

ed by her mother yesterday, Miss Cattarius said she had seen the three watching her and believed they were after her handbag.

"One of the girls just grabbed my hair and pulled my head back. They squirted glue out of a blue and yellow tube. I put my hands out to try to stop them. My hand was covered and it went down one side of my face. It stung and hurt. I could not see anything out of one eye, but I could see the other."

When the bus came, she got on but did not tell anyone what was wrong. "I just wanted to get home. It hurt so much, my eye was streaming." Her mother said: "She was hysterical and so upset that neither of us could sign enough to make any sense at first."

Detective Constable Nikki Hall said: "I have heard of some sickening attacks in my time, but this must rank among the most callous." Police are looking for two women aged about 20 of slim build and a black-haired man, of 30 to 35.

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1. Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Ms ☐

Surname:

First Name:

Address:

Post Code:

Tel No.

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2. Personal Information

Marital Status: Single ☐ Divorced ☐

Widowed ☐ Separated ☐

Religion:

Age:

Place of Birth:

Do you have children of your own?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, how many live with you?

3. Your personal details

Height:

Build: slight ☐ medium ☐ large ☐

Hair colour:

Dress/Looks: casual ☐ fashionable ☐

elegant ☐ sporty ☐

4. Your work

Present job:

Self-employed ☐ employed ☐

civil servant ☐ manual worker ☐

part-time ☐ not working ☐

unemployed ☐ in-training ☐

5. Your Personality

Warmhearted ☐ Fashionable ☐

Serious ☐ Practical ☐

Considerate ☐ Conventional ☐

Shy ☐ Reliable ☐

Romantic ☐ Adventurous ☐

6. How would people who know you best describe you?

always ready for a joke ☐

somewhat dreamy ☐

never has problems ☐

takes life a bit too seriously ☐

not easily upset ☐

always active ☐

chatty ☐

7. Your interests

Winning/Dining ☐ Jazz/Folk music ☐

Pubs ☐ Classical music ☐

Sports/Keep fit ☐ Theatre/Arts ☐

Politics/History ☐ Watching TV ☐

Reading ☐ Smoking ☐

Travelling ☐ Drinking ☐

Science/Tech ☐ Children ☐

Cinema ☐ Homemaking ☐

Pets/Animals ☐ Gardening ☐

Pop music ☐ Countryside ☐

8. Details of the partner you would like:

Min. age: _____ Max. age: _____

Height: min. _____ max. _____

Don't mind ☐

Children? Yes, at home ☐

Yes, living elsewhere ☐ None ☐

Marital status: Single ☐ Divorced ☐

Widowed ☐ Separated ☐

Don't mind ☐

9. Which of the three pictures do you prefer?

(tick the box)

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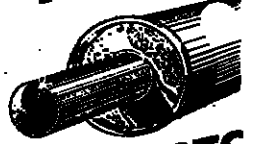
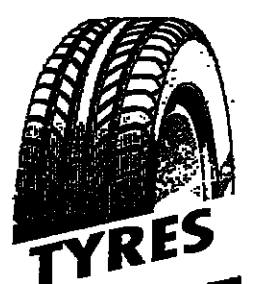
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Men at risk from water that breaks health guidelines

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

TAP water is breaking new international health limits on a substance linked with testicular damage in laboratory animals, according to a report published yesterday.

A survey of boron levels in drinking water supplies indicates that millions of Britons are ingesting concentrations of the material at levels which exceed World Health Organisation guidelines published earlier in the year.

Boron is a naturally occurring element, but it is also discharged into rivers and streams from household and industrial detergents.

The WHO has recommended a maximum level of 0.3 milligrams per litre in drinking water following health evidence showing testicular atrophy in dogs and rats. A survey by the Water

Research Centre near Henley based on figures from the National Rivers Authority shows that boron levels in scores of rivers exceed the guidelines and many of these, especially in the Southeast, are big suppliers of tap water.

The figures, published in the latest *Environmental Data Services* report, show that between 1990 and 1993 average boron levels at Thames-side sites where water is taken for drinking ranged between 0.24mg/l and 0.73mg/l. The maximum levels were 1.88mg/l at Culham in Oxfordshire. In the Lea Valley, northeast London, average boron levels were 0.49mg/l or more than a third higher than the WHO guidelines.

The centre's report highlights the Midlands and East

Anglia as other areas where boron levels are likely to exceed the guidelines.

Man-made supplies of boron come from perborates used as bleaching agents in detergents. Some companies such as Lever Brothers have launched new formulations of concentrated detergents which contain perborates instead. Pencil Power was launched in April and the company has plans to launch a reformulated Radon.

However, some water companies believe more needs to be done. Thames Water is considering pressing detergent companies for more reformulations.

At the moment levels of boron, which has largely been ignored as a health hazard, are set at a European Commission guideline of 1mg/l. But the commission is reviewing the drinking water directive and several countries, including Britain, have been backing a revision of standards in favour of WHO guidelines.

Water companies can suffer high levels of boron in supplies during dry summers and no commercially practical technology exists for its removal. A spokesman for Thames Water said yesterday: "It is very, very expensive to treat."

The company said it was holding talks with the Soap and Detergent Industries Association and the Water Services Association, but admitted that even if more reformulations were developed it would take a long time for boron levels in rivers to drop.

Keith Chesterton of the Soap and Detergent Industries Association said yesterday that the WHO evidence was based on old data and that detergent makers were carrying out their own studies on the health risks.

Mr Chesterton said the concentrations of boron in water should be matched against the levels in food and drink. "The levels in red wine are around 1mg/l and in white wine 7mg/l. I would lay off the wine first if you are worried about boron," he said.



Fear of violent crime prevents many women from enjoying areas such as Oxleas Wood, in southeast London

City dwellers 'scared to walk in woods'

FEAR of crime has extended from cities to the countryside, with people now scared to walk freely in woods and open fields in case they are attacked, robbed or sexually abused (Nick Nuttall writes).

A survey carried out for the Countryside Commission shows that many people, especially women and ethnic minority groups, have been alarmed by reports of violent attacks against women children in public parks and woods.

Researchers who conducted the study believe that the psychological impact of sensationalised crime reports can be compared to fairy tales such as *Little Red Riding Hood*. Dr Jacqui Burgess, a senior lecturer in geography at University College London, emphasised that the real level of crime in woodlands was low and the risk of attack far less than in urban areas.

The study examined people's emotional and psychological reactions to forests on the fringes of towns. Those

surveyed were found to rarely visit woods.

Details of the research are being kept secret by the commission until the publication of the full report in the autumn. The findings will be used to devise strategies to boost public confidence about using woodlands and open spaces. Measures being considered include better maps and signposts, and community programmes that encourage small, social groups of women to enjoy woodland

walks together. The researchers believe that many people have transferred their fears of crime in cities to woods near by. Dr Burgess, writing in the commission's newspaper *Outlook*, says: "My research shows that the physical qualities of woods — of being enclosed by trees and of not being able to see very far — are misinterpreted as if they were physical features in the city and possibly dangerous. As one woman put it, 'It is not worth taking the risk'."

Dog 'drives' car into ravine

A woman passenger escaped unhurt when a car plunged into a 60ft ravine after a dog knocked the automatic gear lever.

Sheila Waterman, 58, had waited in the car while her daughter and son-in-law took photographs from the summit of the 1,200ft Honister Pass in the Lake District. She was on the back seat when Rex, the pet alsatian, knocked the Volvo's lever out of "park".

The car moved off down a 14 hill, hit a verge and then dropped over the edge of the road, coming to rest on its bonnet. Mrs Waterman, from Maidstone, Kent, was treated for shock. The dog died.

Death crash

Luke Round, 14, and his father Victor, 58, from Brierley Hill, West Midlands, died after their motorcycle exploded in flames in a head-on collision near Bridgnorth with a car which also caught fire, killing the driver.

Food charge

Gillian Peachey, 37, was charged with claiming to have planted contaminated food in all Tesco stores in Sussex, Hampshire and Dorset. Ms Peachey, 37, of Alresford, Hampshire, was remanded on bail by Farnham magistrates.

Water detectors

A television licensing team is donning wet suits and flippers to trace licence dodgers on the Norfolk Broads, using a waterproof hand-held device because detector vans cannot pick up signals from boats.

Cemetery theft

Two teenage thieves punched a 45-year-old disabled woman to the ground and stole her purse containing £32 after she parked at a cemetery in Coventry to visit a friend's grave.

Car wrecked

Fifteen youths were questioned at Macclesfield police station after a police car was wrecked in a disturbance.

Naked jape

A male nautist, 47, has advertised in a Leamington Spa newspaper for the occasional use of a private back garden.

Hospital food 'can make sick sicker'

By Robin Young

HOSPITAL food could leave patients at risk from malnutrition, according to the Consumers' Association. The new issue of *Which? Way to Health*, published today, says that only one in three hospitals offers a suitable choice of food for patients, who often require small, frequent meals packed with proteins, vitamins and minerals.

While three-quarters of British hospitals served healthy eating options of low-fat, high-fibre foods suitable for those who were already fit, only a third offered a nutrient-dense choice which many of those who were or had been ill required.

The magazine says: "Malnutrition will mean it takes longer to recover. In some cases it will lead to more serious illness and a longer stay in hospital, even death." In a survey of all 338 adult specialist British hospitals in which 288 supplied infor-

mation, the magazine found nine which served the evening meal at 4.30pm, leaving patients a long time without food until breakfast. Half the hospitals allowed staff to choose a meal for patients who were present when orders were taken. In 21 hospitals patients would be served the meal ordered by the previous occupant of their bed if they changed rooms or had been newly admitted.

Half the hospitals asked patients to select meals 24 hours in advance, and two asked people to decide a week ahead. Fewer than half the hospitals set time limits on meal delivery, allowing food to become cold and lose vitamins.

More than two-fifths repeated the main dishes once a week. Only half used standard recipes. "Considerable effort for nothing," said the magazine, "if the food is not fresh every meal."

Historic hall to become hotel

By Rachel Kelly, Property Correspondent

THE historic Free Trade Hall in Manchester is to become a 290-bedroom hotel in a £30 million scheme announced yesterday.

Construction will start early in 1996, when the Halle Orchestra is due to move from the hall to its new home in the nearby International Concert Hall, and will be completed in 1998. The famous Italian-style

facade, dating from 1856, will be retained. John Lutton, chairman of the developer La Sana North West, said:

"The Free Trade Hall was built on the site of the Peterloo Massacre and was originally the headquarters of the Anti-Corn-Law League, becoming a symbol of social reform. Disraeli, Gladstone and Winston Churchill have spoken there."

The building was badly damaged by bombs in the war, but was carefully restored and is grade two listed.

The project has the support of Manchester City Council. Graham Stringer, council leader, said: "The hotel will support our Commonwealth Games bid, and it will bring valuable new investment and jobs."

Refugee Council rejected non-Muslim

By a Staff Reporter

A BOSNIAN was refused interpreting work with the Refugee Council helping Bosnian Muslim refugees because he was not a Muslim, an industrial tribunal heard yesterday.

Mladen Kesar, 30, who claims racial discrimination, told the hearing in Reading that he had a Serb father and a Croat mother, and was simply a Bosnian.

He said he had come to England in 1992 and went on a Refugee Council course to provide interpreters for Bosnian refugees. Everyone who passed the subsequent examination was promised work in a reception centre.

"I was phoned by a member of staff who asked me to go to Heathrow to meet Bosnian refugees and to act as an interpreter," Mr Kesar, of New Cross, southeast London, said. After he agreed, she asked Mr Kesar about his ethnic origin. "She told me not to go because I was not a Muslim."

Mr Kesar said the would-be translators were told by the Refugee Council that Bosnian Muslim refugees had threatened to kill interpreters who were not of their faith. It had been decided to use only those of Bosnian Muslim background for the time being.

All Dubs, chairman of the Refugee Council, said Mr Kesar was not a victim of racial discrimination but of religious discrimination. He said that even if it was found that Mr Kesar had been a victim of racial discrimination, under the legislation it would be permissible. Mr Dubs told the hearing that the refugees were former detainees in Serb camps, and their families. "They were very traumatised," he said. "We began getting protests from Bosnian Muslims about having to deal with Serbo-Croat speakers who were not Bosnian Muslims."

Outside the hearing, Mr Kesar, a community worker, said he had fled Bosnia after being asked to join Serb forces. "If I had joined them, I would have been involved in the killing of innocent people." The hearing continues.

Sex 'is best cure for a headache'

By Emma Wilkins

THE traditional excuse of "Not tonight, darling, I've got a headache" may no longer offer a viable reason for turning over in bed and switching off the light, according to a new report on the links between sexual activity and health.

Sex stimulates the production of endorphins, the hormones that induce a sense of well-being and euphoria. They also have a pain-killing effect, says Kaye Wellings, director of the Sexual Health Programme at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. "Having a headache could be more of a reason for having sex than an excuse for not doing it," she says in her report published in *Which? Way to Health*.

Her views are supported by research from American scientists. A report called *Joy With Your Underparts* Down, by Dr David Schmarch of Louisiana State University, found that sexual activity helped to relieve pain for patients with arthritis and rheumatism.

However, Dr Raymond Goodman, a consultant psychosexual therapist from the Hope Hospital in Salford, Greater Manchester, said yesterday that headache sufferers with high blood pressure should take the findings with caution. "If you have high blood pressure and have sex, it could kill you. I don't want to scare people off having sex, but those with high blood pressure must be careful," he said.

Fide results

The three winners of the Fide championship quarter-finals are Boris Gelfand (Belarus), who defeated Vladimir Kramnik (Russia) 4.5-3.5, Valery Salov (Russia), who defeated Dutchman Jan Timman also by 4.5-3.5 and Gata Kamsky, who eliminated Viswanathan Anand by 6-4.

Short in action

Nigel Short will join Garry Kasparov in a tournament in Novgorod starting at the end of this week. The event will feature only elite players and the organisers claim that it will have the highest average rating of any chess tournament ever played.

Draught of change

In the US open draughts championship a computer program, Chinook, the brainchild of Professor Jonathan Schaeffer of the University of Alberta, Canada, has tied for first place with two human grandmasters, Don Lafferty and Dr Marion Tinsley. This is the first time that a computer program has achieved such a distinction in a national championship of any mind sport.

Next week in Boston, Dr Tinsley commences his world title defence against Chinook. Two years ago in London, he beat off Chinook's first world title onslaught, winning the championship by 4 wins to 2, with 33 draws.

Winning Move, page 20

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

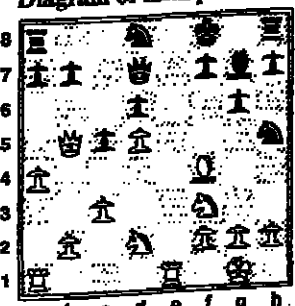
Indian star out

Viswanathan Anand, the Indian star, crashed to defeat in the play-off games of his Fide championship quarter-final against Gata Kamsky (USA) in Sanghi Nagar, India. Anand's humiliation reached its nadir when he lost the second game in just 17 moves, a rare event for a top-flight grandmaster.

White: Gata Kamsky
Black: Viswanathan Anand
Fide Candidates, Sanghi Nagar, 1994

Torre Attack	
1 d4	Nb5
2 Nf3	Qb6
3 c3	Qc6
4 Bg5	Ne4
5 Qd3	Nc6
6 Bf4	Nd8
7 d5	Nb6
8 Nbd2	Nf6
9 e4	d5
10 Bb5+	Qc7
11 a4	Qc7
12 0-0	Nf5
13 e5	exd5
14 exd5	Kf8
15 Re1+	Qxd7
16 Bxd7	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Labour is no longer a strange bedfellow for a business community tiring of its affair with the Tories

City anticipates a marriage more than merely convenient

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA

THIS week *The Times* examines the ways in which those who run the worlds of business, the arts, science and education are planning for a possible new prime minister and the first Labour government since 1979.

Like a flotilla of vessels preparing to change course, the nation's institutions and interest groups are readying themselves for a Labour government more systematically than at any time since 1979. Politics is capricious and polls are often unreliable, so few in positions of power are taking Tony Blair's victory for granted. But most are taking that possibility very seriously.

The election of a telegenic moderniser as leader has also changed radically the way in which the prospect of a Labour government is viewed. The business community no longer swears allegiance auto-

BLAIR'S BRITAIN?

COMING TO TERMS WITH THE POSSIBILITY

matically to the Conservative Government and is looking for constructive dialogue with Mr Blair. There is no sign of a rush to invest offshore. Indeed, if Mr Blair wins office, his current dealings with Marks & Spencer may be judged to have been a milestone in the rehabilitation of a battered party.

But what makes the new leader respectable to traditionally Tory-supporting institutions may make traditionally Labour-supporting groups suspicious. In the education world, for example, the left-wing unions will want to

be sure that the modernisers do not reduce their say in policy-making. For the producer groups in the public sector which have resisted the Government's drive to empower the consumer, Mr Blair's use of Tory language to woo the electorate must be faintly alarming.

As he campaigns for new supporters, he will have to keep half an eye on the old ones. As the battle lines of the next election are drawn up, the old assumptions about "natural constituencies" and "traditional supporters" may have to be ripped up.



Tony Blair is a telegenic moderniser who has changed radically the way Britain's institutions view the possibility of a Labour prime minister

Attractive reasons for sleeping with the enemy

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE emergence of Tony Blair as Labour leader is already having a profound effect on industry and the City. Many businessmen believe he stands a very good chance of becoming the next prime minister, and it is not necessarily a prospect that fills them with dread.

The head of one of Britain's biggest utility companies conceded privately that he thought his business would fare better under a Labour administration. "We might be more tightly regulated," he said, "but we might not lose so much of our market because they probably wouldn't push competition so hard."

Other industrialists point to Labour's commitments to education, training and the role of industry and argue that they have little to fear. Two shifts in business strategy are already evident. The first, and most striking, is in the lobbying

process. Business leaders used to direct virtually all of their effort to influence policy at the Conservative politicians and ministers. No more.

Too many blame the Conservatives for the depth of the recession or for "unhelpful" policies. In 1989 alone, industry's contributions to the Tories fell by £500,000 to £2.5 million. The downward trend has continued.

The Government's strategy of promoting competition in United Kingdom markets at the expense of industrial national champions, without winning comparable concessions in markets overseas, played a part in British Airways' decision in 1991 to cancel its annual £40,000 donation to the Tories.

Marks & Spencer, judged Europe's most respected business in a recent survey, is seeking a meeting with Mr Blair to discuss supporting



Melville-Ross: hoping to influence Labour

Labour. In the City, the love affair with the Tories turned sour long ago. There are many who would look favourably on a government which proposed a shift to statutory supervision, after the manifest failings of self-regulation which have harmed the City's

reputation in the past few years. So, while there is no sign yet of a widespread conversion, business and the City are opening a dialogue with Labour. A record number of companies, including Sainsbury, Securicor, DHL and BSKYB have booked exhibition space at this year's party conference.

Individual companies are following their leaders. Howard Davies, the director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, was a couple of years ahead of Mr Blair at Oxford. Their paths apparently did not cross. But Mr Davies, who was once fleetingly a member of the Labour Party, has been pursuing an open-door policy toward Labour and the Trades Union Congress, as well as Tories and Liberal Democrats, ever since his arrival at Centre Point from the National Audit

Commission in November 1992. Tim Melville-Ross, the new director-general of the Institute of Directors, is also keen to develop links with Labour. "We are a non-political organisation," he said last week, explicitly rejecting the institute's image as a right-wing think-tank.

Mr Melville-Ross said he was greatly heartened when he heard Mr Blair say in a radio interview: "I am not anti-wealth. If someone goes out through hard work and graft and makes themselves a millionaire, good luck to them." Mr Melville-Ross is also encouraged by recent statements from Mr Blair that the top-rate tax band is too wide.

Mr Melville-Ross said that if Labour won power, it would be obliged to consult the institute on matters such as business taxation and regulation, where governments and their officials lack the institute's expertise. But he hoped

that by explaining policy to politicians of all persuasions, he might help them develop policies which best benefit business.

The state-owned nuclear industry has begun a vigorous lobbying campaign for privatisation before the election, lest Labour wins and blocks the self-off option. Post Office leaders are pursuing the same goal with more subtlety.

The mere possibility of a Labour election victory is being used as a lobbying tool. Four companies have been short-listed to build the Channel Tunnel rail link. Some bidders are clearly concerned that the lengthy legislation and the asset transfer are completed before the election.

The business community and its financiers will have billions of pounds at stake in the election outcome. Once it was clear that the Conservatives were their best bet. Now, their strategy suggests they are not so sure.

Worried rich lay plans to protect their nest-eggs

By ROBERT MILLER

TAX accountants report a considerable pick-up in business since Tony Blair was elected Leader of the Labour Party and opinion polls began to show him leading the Government by an increasing margin. Suddenly, the accountants say, people are wanting to discuss tax planning and possible future provisions to protect their wealth.

The difference today, however, is that much more of the money and wealth that people want to shelter will remain in Britain. The Treasury's new strategy in Britain is now much tougher, and Labour has pledged that it will create an even tighter system of statutory control to protect investors' money. David Roth-

introduce a tax on future profits taken from "BHS" schemes and call it a National Insurance charge, and it is quite likely to introduce a wealth tax which would bring the UK line with most EU countries.

An important policy for Mr Blair will be the treatment of tax-free savings vehicles such as personal equity plans and tax-exempt special savings schemes (Tessas). So, too, will be the policy on independent schools, which account for more than 7 per cent of children in education.

Unless Labour announces a major review of tax-free savings, Tessas are likely to be unchanged. Peps, however, could face a cut-off date. Since 1987 tax concessions to Peps investors have cost the Treasury more than £300 million. Philip Warland, director-general of the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds, has had regular contact with Labour's Treasury team. He said: "My impression is that they would not remove any existing tax treatment of Peps and they will not act retrospectively."

The independent schools sector is stepping up its lobbying of Labour after the idea of introducing VAT on fees was floated by the Blair camp. Simon McVicker, of the Independent Schools Information Service, said: "We have already had opinions from counsel that under European law it would be illegal to introduce VAT."

Labour could also consider removing the charitable status that most schools have and abolishing the assisted places scheme, which covers 53,000 children. Mr McVicker said that if charitable status ended fees could rise up to 8 per cent.

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Leading article, page 17

School policies look to the past

By BEN PRESTON
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

TONY Blair proclaimed education as the lynchpin of his strategy to modernise Britain during his leadership coronation, yet found his room for policy manoeuvre severely constrained within days of assuming office.

His first official engagement was the launch of the party's so-called Education White Paper, which appears to have hardened old divisions in education. The speed of events left Mr Blair trying to put his own gloss on a backward-looking document that took Ann Taylor, the Labour education spokeswoman, two years to prepare. Most of its central tenets — the reversal of opting out, the promotion of nursery education, the replacement of A levels and opposition to selection — were party policy at the last election.

The confirmation of the broad policies that will form the basis of Labour's next manifesto has encouraged opponents to plan resistance. The *Times* disclosed last week that more than 140 private schools had joined an initiative mobilising parents in the run-up to the next general

election. The first targets of the new group, Friends of Independent Schools, will be Mr Blair's threat to impose VAT on fees and Labour's commitment to abolish the £80 million assisted places scheme.

The hostility of grant-maintained schools was reinforced by the pledge to return them to "local democratic control". Sir Robert Balchin, chairman of the Grant-Maintained Schools Foundation, said: "Labour must remember that several million people will take their votes elsewhere if the grant-maintained status of their children's school is to be taken away."

The contributions of traditional Labour sympathisers are unlikely to venture too far from well-trodden paths. The National Union of Teachers can be expected to defend the document, which largely reflects its own policies. The union is worried, however, that Mr Blair may weaken the document in an attempt to increase teachers' accountability and to combat charges that Labour would revert to the "provider-led" education system of the 1970s.



Rothenberg warning on inheritance tax

Mr Rothenberg said, however, there was a danger that a Labour government would introduce retroactive legislation on inheritance tax.

Maurice Parry-Wingfield, tax partner at Touche Ross, said: "There is a detectable swell in the number of clients coming to see us. And they are taking the advice that we have already initiated more seriously."

Two key areas in which Mr Rothenberg believes that a Labour government may act are business expansion schemes, which were closed at the end of last year, and a wealth tax. "Labour could

investing tax treatment of Peps and they will not act retrospectively."

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Andrew Dilnot, page 16
Leading article, page 17



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Feuding Wagners tune up for new battle of Bayreuth



Wagner: the composer's legacy is at stake

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE feuding Wagner family, opera's answer to the Bionic Man, is at loggerheads again. Claps of stage thunder are accompanying the publication of the autobiography of Wolfgang Wagner — 75-year-old grandson of the composer, Richard — which is widely regarded as the first shot in the battle for the future control of the Wagnerian legacy.

Appropriately, the dispute coincides with a new production of the Ring Cycle at the Wagner Festival in Bayreuth. The drama off-stage easily matches *Das Rheingold*, though there is nobody in the Wagner family who can match the skin-tight disco attire of this year's Ring maddens.

Ever since the early death in 1966 of Wieland Wagner, Richard's eldest grandson, there have been arguments about who should carry the composer's flame. Friedelind, Wieland's sis-

ter, had ambitions, but found herself banished by the family and died in 1991 after years of unhappy exile.

Wieland's widow, Gertrud — despite bitterness about her husband's affairs — wanted to be the guardian of the Wagner legacy. "We were all married in our way to Richard and our mission was to control Bayreuth," she told an interviewer. But the task passed instead to Wolfgang, who in a book written with all the passion of an office memorandum, defends his long stint as head of the family.

The book, *Lebens-Akte*, tries to set out the qualities needed for aspiring successors to Wolfgang. It skates carefully over the question of Hitler's links with the Wagner family. Wolfgang, for example, recalls how he was wounded outside Radom in Poland in 1939 and appears to have

Wolfgang Wagner has just published his autobiography, an act widely seen as the opening round of the coming struggle for control of his composer grandfather's Bayreuth empire

total recall about the incident. "I even had to pay for my ticket home when I left hospital," he complains. Yet he neglects to mention that Hitler visited him several times at his Berlin hospital bed. Hitler's concern, however, is carefully chronicled by Friedelind in her 1944 memoir, written in exile and reissued this week as part of the Wagner family in-fighting. Friedelind remembers her mother saying: "And the Führer — you know how he hates hospitals — visited Wolf five times, and even brought roses."

Wolfgang, the composer's daughter-in-law and Wolfgang's

mother, evidently stayed in love with Hitler. In 1975 she told a filmmaker: "If he came through the door now I would be as happy as ever to see him again." Hitler, known as Uncle Wolf to all the Wagner offspring, continually worried about Wagner productions. A monologue recorded in Hitler's *Table Talk* in February 1942 has him fretting about a Ring production from the 1920s. "I was so irritated when I saw a Jew playing Wotan. What a racial insult!"

The interplay between Nazi ideology and Wagnerian themes was self-evident, as was the mutual admiration between Hitler and

the composer's family. Yet Wolfgang appears to use his book to de-nazify Wagner.

The neglect of the Nazi issue in Wolfgang's memoirs is only one of many subsidiary feuds in the Wagner dynasty. But the key question remains: who should succeed Wolfgang?

Gertrud has never stopped sniping at Wolfgang and has just moved to Munich (Tannhäuserplatz, where else?) to be closer to the centre of the power play. The reissue of Friedelind's book shows yet again that Wolfgang was always regarded by the family as a pale shadow of Wieland. Wolfgang's book also studiously ignores his daughter, Eva, by his first marriage who, as a talented and internationally recognised designer, is the only younger member of the dynasty truly qualified to take over as the patron of the festival.

Eva smuggled stage designs, hidden under her dress, to Götz

Friedrich when the East German Communist government finally approved a staging of *Tannhäuser* in 1971. Eva worked for seven years alongside her father but rates only a mention of six lines in his memoirs: punishment for siding with her mother when Wolfgang decided to marry his secretary, Gudrun. Eva's son, Antoine, was snubbed when he visited Bayreuth this year.

The betting now is that Wolfgang will hand over the reins to Gudrun. This is being hailed as the "Cosima option". Cosima, Richard's widow, took over the running of the festival after the death of her husband in 1883. But Wolfgang has only one vote out of 24 in the decision-making council of the foundation that manages the Bayreuth Festival.

Other votes are held by various official bodies, the Bavarian government and three other members of the Wagner family. There is thus still everything to play for.

France strengthens defences against Muslim extremists

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

THE French government yesterday stepped up security measures at potential terrorist targets as Muslim extremists continued to threaten violent retaliation for Paris's support of the Algerian government.

The measures came two days after police staged a security operation, checking the identity of 3,000 drivers and pedestrians in Paris. The Interior Ministry said the moves showed that it was taking seriously the threat of terrorist action by Muslim fundamentalists.

The French Foreign Ministry has responded to criticism

that its support for the embattled Algerian government had left it isolated by saying that Washington, London and Bonn shared its concerns. However, France is virtually alone in supporting President Zéroual and other Western nations are calling for dialogue with moderate Muslim leaders. Critics of the French government say that its stance will not only fail to save Mr Zéroual but will increasingly turn France into a target for Muslim fundamentalists.

Last week 17 alleged members of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) were detained by

police throughout France after five Frenchmen were killed in a terrorist attack in Algeria. In response, the Islamic Salvation Army said in a statement: "France has declared war on the FIS and on Algerian Muslims."

The high-profile security operation in Paris was designed to reassure the public and show that France would not bow to such threats, the Interior Ministry indicated. However, analysts said the move proved that France had been drawn into the Algerian civil war and would need to shore up its defences against possible terrorist attack. The decision yesterday to reinforce the police presence at airports and railway stations underlined the continuing threat, they said.

The Algerian Fraternity in France (FAF), which is close to the FIS, yesterday called for the release of the 17 "brothers" held in a former military barracks in Folembay, northern France.

The authorities have no intention of bowing to this demand, but are having trouble dealing with the alleged activists. France wants to expel the detainees but has yet to find a country willing to accept them. Charles Pasqua, the Interior Minister, has ruled out sending them to Algeria.

The need to find a third country has been highlighted by the reaction of villagers at Folembay, who are furious that the 17 should have been detained there without warning. Local councillors have expressed fears that their community could become a terrorist target unless the alleged activists are moved quickly. Bernard Hiverlet, the Mayor of Folembay, returned from holiday to find the 17 alleged extremists housed in the former barracks that he thought were being turned into an old people's home. M Hiverlet has called for calm after some villagers harangued the detainees from the road.



Pasqua: building on his popular appeal

blunt and tough manner made him unpopular with the Centre as well as the Left. Since his resignation last year, M Pasqua has courted middle-of-the-road voters as well as the Right and his moves against Muslim extremists have underlined his image as an uncompromising opponent of terrorism, which is a useful trampoline for a man who is said to want to jump that little bit higher.

Trampoline king takes leap ahead

BY ADAM SAGE

HE CALLS himself the King of the Trampoline, boasting that he is capable of bouncing back from any disappointment. But in recent months Charles Pasqua, France's Interior Minister, has more closely resembled a pole-vaulter — a man who keeps on rising.

The decision by M Pasqua, already one of the most popular French politicians, to clamp down on Muslim extremists will help to confirm him as a pivotal figure in next year's presidential election. The Right's two front-runners, Edouard Balladur, the Prime Minister, and Jacques Chirac, the Mayor of Paris, are engaged in a private battle, and M Pasqua's aides believe that he could be the only man capable of uniting a divided Catholic movement. M Pasqua has said that he might stand, and if he does it would complete a remarkable rise for a man who was born 67 years ago into a modest Corsican family.

His first spell as Interior Minister from 1986 to 1988 was marked by failure and his



The gutted ruins of the Randolph County High School, where racial tensions have led to an FBI investigation

Rekindled racism flares in Alabama

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THE burnt-out shell of Randolph County High School in east Alabama stands as a grim reminder of how a legacy of racial conflict can ignite without warning.

For six months this school in the tiny town of Wedowee (pop: 800) has been the focus of a simmering racial dispute after the white principal, Hulond Humphries, threatened to cancel a prom if interracial couples attended.

The day after he made the threat Mr Humphries retreated, saying that he had feared violence between black and white students might erupt at the sight of a mixed couple dancing. Before desegregation the school was all-white, now approximately a third of the 700 students are black.

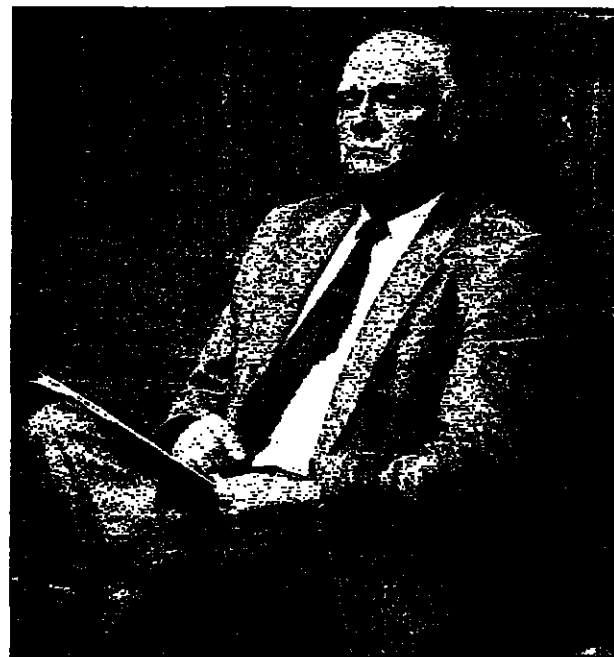
Many parents and students called for the principal's dismissal. One mixed-race pupil, Revonda Bowen, sued

the board and headmaster, claiming Mr Humphries told her she was a "mistake".

The principal has not been removed, however, and Miss Bowen's lawsuit was settled out of court when the Randolph County school board agreed to pay \$25,000 (£16,600) towards her university education.

Then last weekend someone burnt the school to the ground. What began as an ugly local dispute has taken on national proportions. The FBI was called in to investigate the fire's cause and the US Justice Department has made legal moves to sack Mr Humphries for discrimination. A hearing on the case will take place on Thursday.

Hundreds of white residents laid wreaths round the destroyed school last weekend, while blacks avoided a site that symbolises a new wave of racial hatred.



Hulond Humphries, the headmaster who threatened to cancel a school dance if inter-racial couples attended

UN teams search for Sarajevo snipers

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

FIVE months out of practice, Sejla Bezdor, 19, is finding it tough to return to the rhythm of running the gauntlet of Sarajevo snipers. "Oh, my god, not again," the student said, sweat streaming from his brow after a recent 300-yard sprint under sniper fire.

Three of her fellow citizens had not made it across the patch: they were wounded by Serb marksmen.

In recent days more forceful action has curbed sniper attacks. United Nations anti-sniper teams have increased their activity. French and Ukrainian sharpshooters wait quietly in ruined buildings, searching for muzzle flashes from Serb or Bosnian army snipers.

For the past month, sniper attacks and the general level of fighting across the front lines have climbed sharply. After months of calm, Sarajevo again sounds increasingly like it is more at war than at peace.

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, United Nations commander in Bosnia, is particularly concerned about both the sniping and the level of fighting. Explosions from rocket-propelled grenades have replaced the roar of mortar and artillery shells. City streets and trams in the past weeks have once again borne the bloodstains of civilian casualties, as they so often did before February's Nato ultimatum to the Serbs.

As a solution to the issue of heavy weapons inside the Sarajevo exclusion zone and the shooting, the British commander is proposing a total demilitarisation of Sarajevo. He has asked to meet the Bosnian Serb army commander later this week.

UN officials refuse to comment publicly on the more forceful approaches to combat sniping, but at least half a dozen of the hidden killers are said to have been "suppressed" in the latest outbreak of fighting. Peacekeepers are also patrolling some portions of the front line, tracking the snipers.

'A time bomb is about to explode and thousands of refugees will die in the blast'

Drug-resistant dysentery sweeps Goma camps

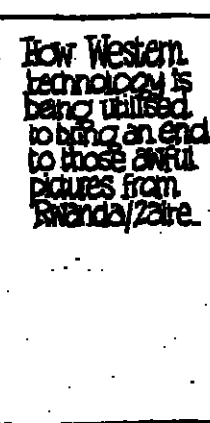
FROM INIGO GILMORE IN GOMA, ZAIRE

THE British Red Cross doctor glanced at the reeking corpse of a young man lying a few feet from the rehydration tent. As he contemplated the announcement by medical experts in Goma that a highly infectious strain of dysentery is set to sweep through the Rwandan refugee population, his face contorted in an awful grimace.

"A new time bomb is about to explode," he said, shaking his head in disbelief, "and thousands will die in the blast."

The words of Dr John Parker, 45, from Liverpool, encapsulate the deep concern of aid workers in Goma since it was confirmed that shigella has taken hold in the refugee camps. This acute form of dysentery is believed to be resistant to almost all drugs and it is feared its impact on the refugees could be worse than cholera.

Shigella is a highly contagious type of bacteria transmitted, like cholera, from person to person by the oral-faecal route. Unlike cholera, which has been fought largely successfully, shigella's treatment is not straightforward. While a drug called Nigram has been used effectively to treat shigella in the past, tests have shown that the strain present in Goma is resistant to the drug. Cholera has been unusually dev-



Under Western eyes: the Rwandan refugee crisis as seen by Turner of the Irish Times

astating in Goma because many refugees were so weakened by dehydration, malnutrition, debilitating ailments and exhaustion. The same rules apply with shigella, except now the refugees are worse off. For cholera, rehydration is usually enough to save lives. Shigella victims can sometimes be kept alive by rehydration, but antibiotics are essential if the infection is to be dealt with effectively.

It seems the only sure way of preventing it from spreading out of control is through immediate improvements in sanitary conditions and provision of food. Jacques de Miliiano, world president of

Médecins sans Frontières, the group conducting the tests, said at the weekend that, unless dramatic changes are made, the infection could affect 20 per cent of the refugees. "In this current environment, I think it could be more devastating than cholera," he said.

Given the lack of manpower and resources, any significant short-term improvement in sanitary conditions seems unlikely. Despite repeated calls from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for 60,000 latrines in the camps, only 2,000 have been provided and they are becoming health risks. Part of the problem is that camps such as

Kibumba, north of Goma, are set up on volcanic soil that can be removed only with dynamite. Refugees simply defecate outside their makeshift shelters or on waste ground.

In Kibumba, one of the most used sites lies across the road from the British Red Cross dispensary. The appalling stench wafts round the long line of refugees snaking up to the treatment centre. Inside the fenced-off compound, emaciated men, women and children, many attached to drips, sit or lie on plastic sheeting trying vainly to stem the flow of bloody diarrhoea with handfuls of tissues. Outside the makeshift tent a naked man, no older than 20,

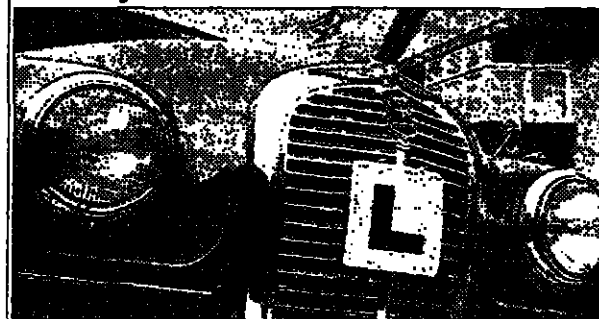
lies face down next to a wrapped-up corpse, his mouth agape and crushed against a rock. Nobody noticed him arrive and he simply collapsed and died as shigella took hold.

Dr Parker says there is a lack of even the most basic antibiotics. When some surgical equipment, far too sophisticated for their needs, arrived recently he took out the packaging to use it for sanitary towels. In a few weeks the rainy season will create yet more problems for aid workers. "At the moment it is hot and dry, but when the rains come this area will be transformed into a cesspool," Dr Parker said.

The prospect of a new and potentially deadlier epidemic will intensify the aid agencies' efforts to persuade refugees to return to Rwanda, where health facilities are being set up and food and water are available. Propaganda against the Rwandan Patriotic Front, the force behind the new Rwandan regime, has been so effective, however, that the situation appears unlikely to change significantly.

Outside the dispensary a diminutive and cross-eyed Hutu refugee from Kigali stands clutching his three-year-old daughter, who already has shigella symptoms. "The RPF is killing refugees like goats," he said, drawing a line across his throat. "We will stay here and risk disease rather than go back."

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
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Rabin and Husain admitted to Clinton they had been talking in secret for 20 years

Bitter years end with border opening

BY BEN LYNNFIELD
IN AQABA AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE historic opening of the border crossing between Israel and Jordan yesterday is expected to add impetus to hard bargaining between the two countries today.

The talks will focus on water rights, border delineation and other issues that need to be resolved before a formal peace treaty can be signed.

Tough negotiations were pushed into the background during the opening of the frontier, however, as optimism reigned. Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, disclosed that he had held secret meetings with King Hussein of Jordan for 20 years as the two leaders met publicly to mark the opening.

The inauguration of the border crossing cemented their agreement at a Washington summit last month which ended more than four decades of hostilities. "When the three of us were at the White House, President Clinton, King

Arafat meeting

Jerusalem: Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, will meet Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, tomorrow for the first time since the start of Palestinian self-rule, Israel radio said. (Reuters)

Husain and myself, Clinton turned to us and asked: "Tell me the truth, how long have you known each other?" Mr Rabin said.

"I looked at the King. He did not answer. I answered: 'Twenty-one years.' So he corrected: 'Twenty.' And he was right," Mr Rabin added.

Earlier, as the border crossing was opened, Mr Rabin said: "Three days ago this was a wilderness, only sand and more sand. Today this place teems with new life. Three weeks ago the dream of peace was far away... Soon it will seem as though this is the way it has always been."

The ceremony was followed immediately by Mr Rabin crossing into Aqaba for an unprecedented public summit on Jordanian territory.

At first, only tourists and businessmen from third countries but not Israeli and Jordanian passport-bearers will be able to use the crossing.

Underlining the rapprochement, Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan quoted in Hebrew the biblical verse "To turn the valley of trouble into a gate of hope", saying it should inspire co-operation between the two neighbours in the Jordan rift valley that they share.

Michael Dynes, page 16
Leading article, page 17



King Hussein of Jordan, left, welcoming Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, to the royal palace at Aqaba. The King told his visitor he hoped to go to Israel "before too long"

Tourism chiefs look forward to a Red Sea Riviera

BY BEN LYNNFIELD
AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE

MIDDLE East peacemaking will broaden the horizon for tourists this morning, when the Aqaba-Eilat border terminal enables holidaymakers to cross from Eilat's beaches to the red rose city of Petra in Jordan without risking gunfire or detention by frontier guards.

The move, following yesterday's official opening ceremony, marks a turning point for the two cities, which are less than a mile apart and have coexisted largely peacefully but without direct contact for the past 46 years.

The border was marked in pencil on a map in Whitehall in 1928, according to sources in Jerusalem, but no frontier posts were set up along the dried-up riverbed that marks the spot and flash-floods are believed to have moved the border over the years. "The borders are not really established," a British Government source said yesterday.

Jawad Anani, the Jordanian Information Minister, said it was "highly feasible" to imagine the coastlines of Jordan, Israel and Egypt evolving into a "Red Sea Riviera".



Israeli soldiers waiting at the new border crossing at Aqaba

"The availability of sun is there throughout the year and the coral is there. It is a natural draw for divers, bathers and sun-seekers," Mr Anani said.

The border crossing is, however, not open to Jordanians and Israelis

but only to the citizens of other countries.

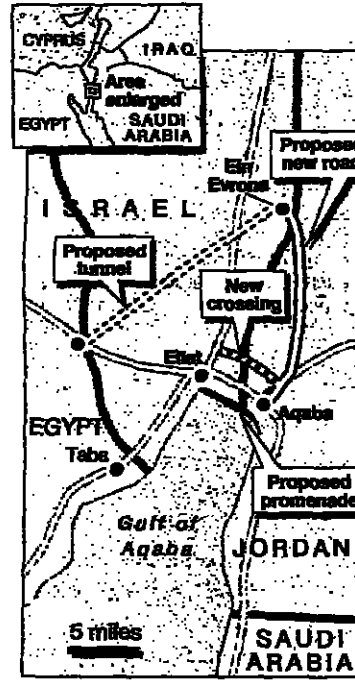
Jordan and Israel have different ideas about the pace of change prompted by the new crossing. Israeli officials speak enthusiastically of a beachfront promenade that would link Jordan, Israel and Tabat in Egypt. "You would be able to drop off your passport and eat lunch in another country," says Orly Doron, a

spokeswoman for the Israeli Tourism Ministry.

In Jordan, however, travel agents in Aqaba believe that plan is too ambitious. "We and the Israelis fought each other for 46 years," said Homad Araydah, general manager of Thager Touring. "Such a development cannot happen in one year."

David Lewis, president of the London-based Lewis Trust Group, which owns and manages a string of hotels in Eilat, was also cautious yesterday. "The opening of the border is a plus, but peace with Egypt has not transformed tourism. I don't think we should be congratulating ourselves prematurely," he said.

T. E. Lawrence, whose first major victory against the Turks came at Aqaba in July 1917, wrote in *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*: "All men dream; but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds wake in the day to find it was vanity; but the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act their dream with open eyes, to make it possible."



US pursues elusive Syrian peace deal

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

WHILE Israel and Jordan changed the map of the Middle East yesterday by opening their first border crossing, Syria remained the centre of American peace efforts.

There can be no comprehensive or lasting Middle East peace without Syria, whose negotiations with Israel have been deadlocked since February. There was no sign of a breakthrough after five hours of talks in Damascus on Sunday between Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, and President Assad. "We have a great distance to go there, but the parties are very serious about the matter and, as I said, I think these meetings on the region have begun to lay the groundwork for progress towards peace," Mr Christopher said.

Analysts believe there are grounds for cautious optimism after the emergence of a basis for an agreement mostly involving the Golan Heights.

Damascus demands a complete Israeli withdrawal from the plateau it captured in 1967. Israel has offered a phased and partial withdrawal over eight years. Before it discusses the extent of that withdrawal, it wants Syria to declare a commitment to full ties and open borders.

Mr Assad also maintains there can be no peace with Israel until it withdraws from all occupied Arab lands, including the West Bank and a strip of territory in southern Lebanon.

Wide gaps remain, but both sides have been carefully preparing public opinion for compromise. Most Jewish settlers on the Golan Heights have been made to realise that their days there are numbered.

Damascus Syrian traders are to be allowed to import bananas for the first time in 20 years, officials said yesterday. No reason has ever been given for the ban. (Reuters)

Jordan to allow PLO free rein on statehood

BY BEN LYNNFIELD

AMID a high degree of friction with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Abdul Salam Majali, Jordan's Prime Minister, has said that his country does not intend to "overrun" the Palestinians in their bid for statehood.

"We are not trying to overrun them or overtake their rights. They have the full right to decide their future," Dr Majali said when asked if Jordan was still interested in exerting its influence over Palestinians in the West Bank and east Jerusalem.

His comments came after two Palestinian leaders, Yasser Arafat and Faisal al-Husseini, wound up meetings with Jordanian officials in what appeared to be an unsuccessful bid to soothe tensions between Jordan and the PLO. Links have been severely strained since last month's Washington agreement when Israel accorded "high priority

to Jordan's role in Muslim holy shrines in Jerusalem, where the PLO intends to set up its future capital.

Dr Majali said that move did not mark a departure from previous Jordanian policy. He criticised Israel, however, for giving what he deemed to be a "not correct" impression that the declaration hands over shrines in Jerusalem to Jordan. "Israel is very clever at putting up balloons," he said.

Dr Majali was optimistic about relations with Israel, predicting that they would be warmer than those with Egypt if a comprehensive peace were reached which included Lebanon, Syria and Iraq. "You cannot have peace in the whole area without Iraq," he said. "It would be rubbish without it. We do not want a place where all the rejectionists can go. [Iraq] should not be left out, or you will have small pieces of peace."

Jerusalem finds lines are open to Arab foes

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

ISRAEL'S most implacable enemies opened lines of communication with Jerusalem yesterday, when telephone links between Israel and Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia mysteriously materialised.

Even the Israeli Foreign Ministry and the country's telecommunications authority were unaware that people living in Jerusalem were suddenly able to dial the hardline Arab countries. Until yesterday morning telephone links to the rest of the Arabian peninsula had to be routed through Britain or America - and only then with great difficulty.

Jim Lederman, of Harvard University's Institute for Social and Economic Policy in

the Middle East, who lives in Jerusalem, discovered the open lines to the Arab world by chance. "I and a friend made four calls to Saudi Arabia, two to Damascus and two to Baghdad. Beginning just a few hours before the morning live television broadcast of the opening of the border between Israel and Jordan, anyone in Jerusalem could dial direct to Saudi Arabia, Syria or Iraq."

He was so bemused that he tested the lines again last night, calling Lufthansa, the German airline, in Baghdad. "I got the answer-machine," he said. "In 27 years of being in the Middle East, this is the most extraordinary thing I have experienced."



The first official Israeli tourists to visit Jordan waving flags on reaching Allenby Bridge

Greeks 'seize' King's home

London: Former King Constantine of Greece yesterday accused the Greek authorities of illegally seizing his home on Corfu.

The former King, who lives in exile in London, said: "I have been informed that under the direct instructions of the Mayor and Council of the island Municipality of Corfu, my private home, Mon Repos, was physically broken into and illegally entered on Friday, August 5, 1994." He said he had no option but to fight the move in the Corfu courts.

The municipal authorities said legislation to strip the former King of his property, approved in April, allowed them to take over the palace. The monarchy was abolished by a referendum in 1974. (AP)

Family retreat

Harare: One of Zimbabwe's oldest white families has buckled under political pressure from President Mugabe's government to abandon a private ceremony marking the centennial of its forebears' arrival. The Rosenfelds, who let the anniversary pass unmarked, watched the second Test between England and South Africa instead.

Talks resume

Geneva: America and North Korea resumed talks on Pyongyang's suspected nuclear weapons programme after negotiations stalled on Friday. This round is the first since the death last month of Kim Il Sung, the North Korean dictator. (AFP)

Crime fight

Johannesburg: South Africa has set up a trouble-shooting team to try to combat soaring crime in the country, including the killing of seven police officers in the past ten days and the murder of two children and their grandmother. (Reuters)

Fires spread

Garden Valley: Fires fanned by gusty wind and fuelled by tinder-dry vegetation destroyed about 40 buildings spread over 1,200 acres here in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Dozens of little lights dotted the charred landscape as flames took hold. (AP)

Cubans rally

Havana: A crowd estimated at 600,000 gathered in Havana's Revolution Square to show support for President Castro, two days after anti-government riots. They waved flags and chanted revolutionary slogans. (Reuters)

Aids warning

Yokohama: The World Health Organisation has urged Asia, hosting its first international Aids conference here, to fight the disease at a cost up to \$980 million or face the prospect of an estimated five million infections by 2000. (Reuters)

Price of jail

Manila: Two Filipinos who spent 20 years in jail without trial were freed yesterday and were paid \$270 in compensation, the maximum allowed by law. The prosecution papers were destroyed by fire in 1989. (Reuters)

Sikh protest

Bonn: Several hundred Sikhs, waving swords and banners, protested in Bonn against Germany's deportation of compatriots to India. They said deported Sikhs were sometimes tortured and killed by security forces. (Reuters)

Drugs for all

Henzelo: The owner of the Happy Days coffee shop in this Dutch city has been told by a judge that he can sell soft drugs to foreigners, effectively overturning a local law aimed at countering drugs tourism. (AP)

Navel manoeuvre

Seoul: Police in the South Korean city of Kwangju, acting after complaints from citizens, especially Confucian scholars, are detaining women who bare their navels in public by wearing a fashionable abbreviated T-shirt called the Navel-T. (Reuters)

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Samper acts to free himself of accusations that he took money from drug barons

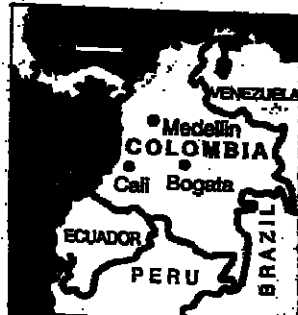
Colombia's new leader pledges war on cartels

FROM DAVID ADAMS
IN MIAMI

COLOMBIA'S new President, Ernesto Samper, who was sworn in on Sunday, has vowed to intensify the war against the drug cartels in his country, while accusing the rest of the world of not doing enough to reduce demand by cocaine consumers.

"My government will be just as clear and decisive in the eradication of [drug] cultivation and the persecution of drug trafficking as it will be firm in demanding effective action by consuming countries to reduce demand and control money-laundering," he said in an inaugural address.

Señor Samper's inauguration, at which he was guarded by 18,000 soldiers and police officers because of fears of a guerrilla attack, was clouded by lingering doubts over the finances of his election campaign after allegations that his party might have received funds from the Cali cartel, the richest of Colombia's cocaine



consortiums. Mystery still surrounds the telephone conversations in which Cali cartel bosses can be heard discussing contributions to the Samper campaign fund. Señor Samper, who is a 44-year-old American-educated economist, has said that if such offers were made, they were never accepted.

An investigation of the tapes by Colombian authorities concluded that they had been edited. "What they took out of the tapes is that we did not accept any money," Señor Samper said.

The issue has caused a rift

with Washington after US diplomats and intelligence officials fuelled speculation about Señor Samper's drug ties in an apparent attempt to put pressure on him to take a tougher stance in the drug war. American officials were concerned by a decision in May by Colombia's constitutional court to "depersonalise" the possession of small amounts of cocaine and marijuana for personal use.

President Clinton issued a statement on Sunday saying he looked forward to further co-operation with Colombia in the battle against drugs. The message was delivered by Bruce Babbitt, the US Interior Secretary, who headed an American delegation to the inauguration.

Despite the friendly words, however, Colombian officials were outraged by the US tactics and President Samper has since fought back aggressively to clear his name. Officials point out that Señor Samper was himself the victim of a "horrible" attack by

drug cartel assassins in 1989 when he survived 11 bullet wounds. He still carries the remains of four bullets embedded in his body.

The US might have achieved its objective, however. Señor Samper's stance on the drug war has shifted significantly. In his inaugural address he also proposed longer prison sentences for traffickers. After his election on June 19 — he beat his conservative rival in the presidential run-off with a bare 50.3 per cent of the vote — he appeared unwilling to wage war on the Cali cartel and placed much of the blame for the drug problem on consumer societies, especially the US.

In an interview with *The New York Times*, Morris Busby, the former US Ambassador to Colombia who retired last month, said: "No one will ever know the answer to the big question. The most important and most frightening thing about those tapes is that narcotics traffickers felt that they could do it."



César Gaviria, left, the former President of Colombia, embracing his successor, President Samper, at Señor Samper's inauguration in Bogotá yesterday

India turns deaf ear to population warning

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN DELHI

INDIA'S population, rising at more than one million a month, will reach 1.4 billion by 2030. This World Bank statistic has caused not a ripple of interest within the government, which remains determined to avoid the politically sensitive issue of family planning.

The attachment to large families in rural India is strong and there are therefore few effective family planning programmes.

The imposition of family planning in the mid-1970s, when old men were forced to have vasectomies, has discredited all government contraception programmes.

In remote villages such as L'daka, in the northern state of Haryana, many women want smaller families but husbands demand at least three sons; daughters hardly count. Groups like Parivar Seva Sansha, affiliated to Marie Stopes International, run mobile clinics and help women who want to use contraception secretly.

Whitewater lawyer urged to step aside

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE lawyer defending Bill Clinton in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case has urged the new independent counsel investigating the Whitewater affair to step down because of his "partisanship" against the President.

This extraordinary assault on the fitness to serve of Kenneth Starr, a former federal judge and Republican Solicitor-General, reflects the growing tide of shock, dismay and anger within the White House over his appointment.

The lawyer, Robert Bennett, would not say if his criticism of Mr Starr was cleared with the White House, but he was considered unlikely to have gone on the offensive single-handedly. Assuming Mr Starr does not resign, the Bennett attack has, at the very least, created the potential for friction between the prosecutor and the targets of his inquiry, who include the President and his wife.

"I'm honestly concerned about whether the President and Mrs Clinton are going to be treated fairly," said Mr Bennett in an interview pub-

lished by *The Washington Post* yesterday.

The lawyer said he had no doubts about Mr Starr's "intellect and integrity", but felt he should decline the post of independent counsel because of his recent comments on television about the lawsuit brought by Mrs Jones, the former clerk who claims Mr Clinton exposed himself to her in a Arkansas hotel room.

As a private lawyer, Mr Starr criticised a Clinton court motion arguing that the President should be immune from such civil lawsuits while in office. Mr Starr, talked to lawyers for Mrs Jones and even "considered filing a friend-of-the-court brief to support her lawsuit."

Given this background, it does appear odd that Mr Starr was chosen for a sensitive investigation in which lack of political bias would seem to be a key requirement. Asked to reply to the criticism, Mr Starr promised to act with an open mind. "Judges are accustomed to setting aside their views and proceeding with a fresh perspective," he said.



Arsenio Hall, a chat-show host, signals his approval as President Clinton makes his saxophone debut

Clinton's hot sax leaves critics cold

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

LESS than two years ago an unrecognised jazz saxophonist from Arkansas burst, almost literally, on to the musical scene before millions of television viewers on the Arsenio Hall chat show.

That debut was followed by highly acclaimed performances across the United States, culminating in January 1992 in the celebrated "Inaugural Jam Sessions" before an audience of thousands of screaming, over-dressed fans in Washington.

This week Bill Clinton's musical career took another turn, with the release of *The Pres Blows* to something less than critical acclaim. This, his first album, was recorded during the impromptu performance he gave in a Prague nightclub last January after President Havel, the Czech leader, presented him with a new tenor saxophone.

The presidential performance, taped by a local radio station, is already selling briskly in the Czech Republic. Now it has been released on compact disc in the US by one Bernard Brightman through the Daybreak mail order

firm in New York for just \$10 (£6.50). "We've offered it to the Democratic National Committee and Clinton's [Whitewater] legal defence team as a premium for fund raising," Mr Brightman told the *Daily News* in New York. The offer, oddly enough, was rejected.

The 17-minute tape reveals the 47-year-old jazzman and leader of the Western world at his rawest. Backed by the Reduta Jazz Club sextet, he honks and grunts his way through such old favourites as *Summertime* and *My Funny Valentine*.

Although music critics have been harsh, their judgement was no doubt warped by political bias. Which might also be true of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the Russian right-wing demagogue and, it appears, music connoisseur.

In an interview in *Vanity Fair* this month he panned the President's performance. "In the US, you have a different life. You have Clinton playing the sax," he said. "If Yeltsin played the balalaika, everyone would say he was crazy."

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Treasures or royal follies?

The call to write off Buckingham Palace caused an outcry, but it is nothing new, says Julia Llewellyn Smith

It is the year 2199 and the queue of tourists snaking through London's Docklands waiting to see the People's Palace is outraged. It has been suggested that this royal residence, built 200 years ago in the style of the Lloyd's building in the City, should be demolished in favour of something more in keeping with the 22nd century.

"The Queen in a modern palace? It is total and utter rubbish," said one woman, who had waited 13 hours to gasp at Terence Conran's kitchens. "This is our history. It is what people want to see."

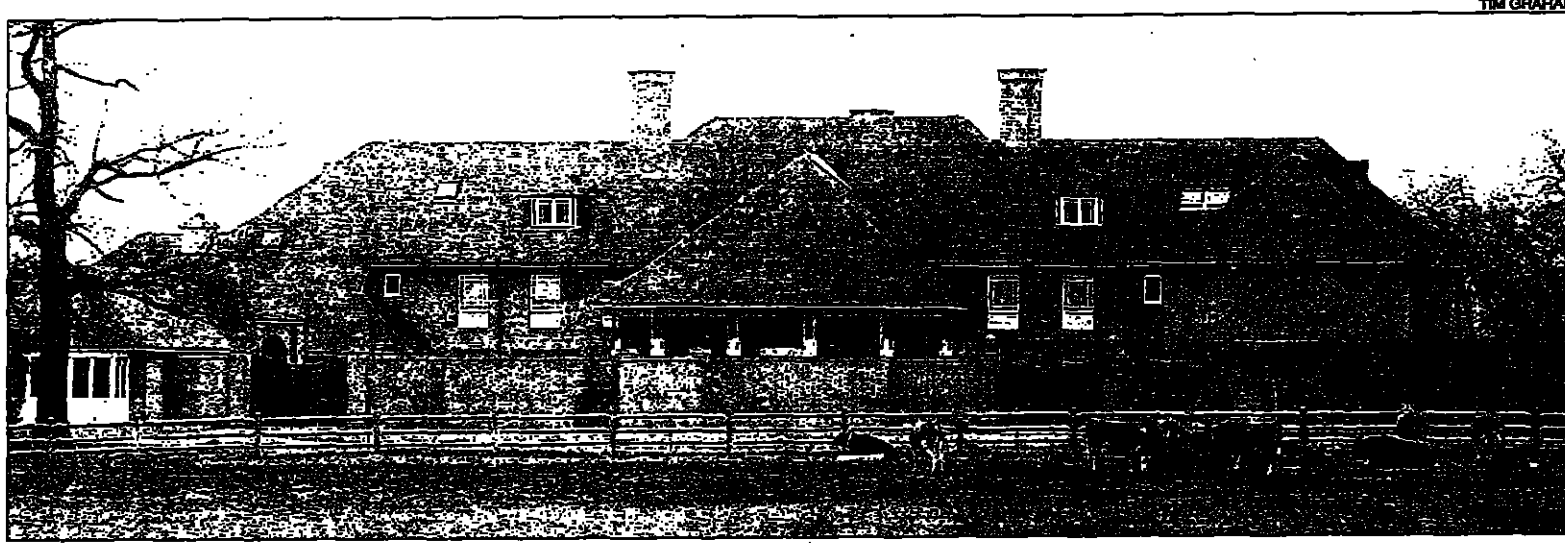
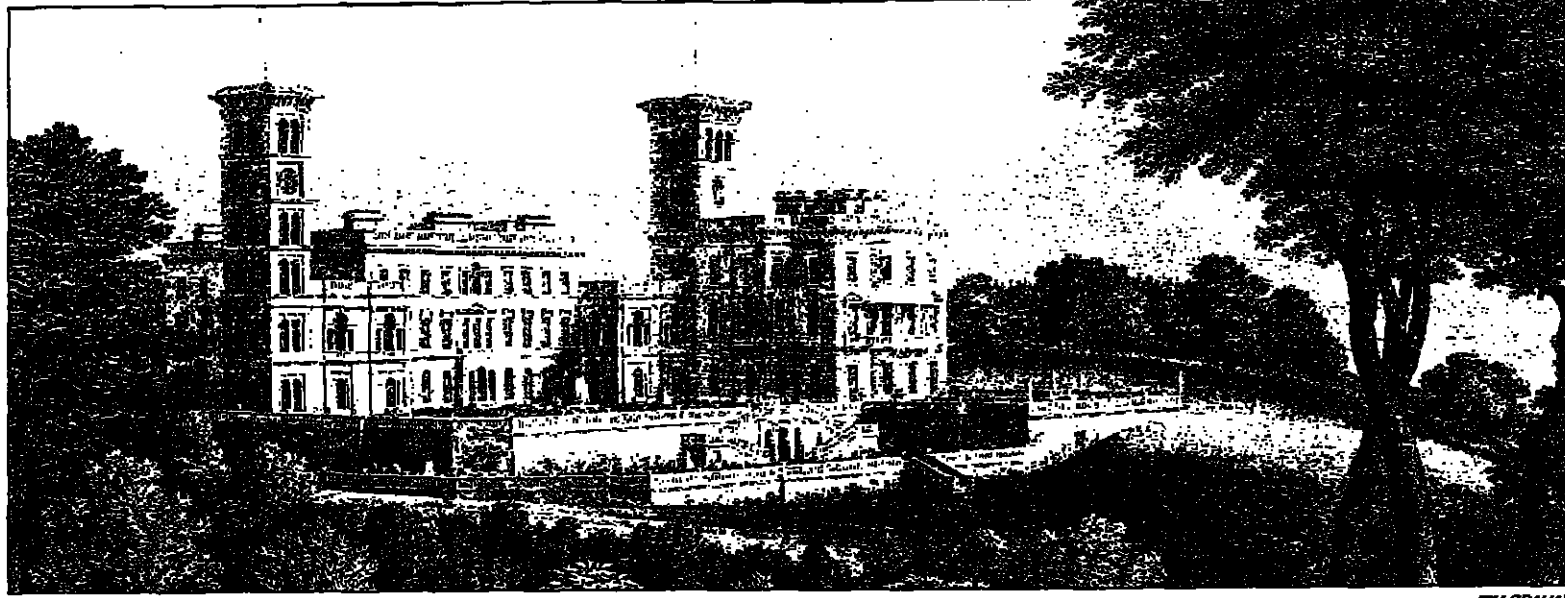
This, in essence, was the indignant reaction of sightseers and politicians to the suggestion by Mo Mowlam, the shadow Heritage Secretary, that Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle should be sold and the Queen should move to a purpose-built palace, bereft of "red plush and gilt" and with "restrained David Hicks interiors".

Yet the Buckingham Palace now so roundly defended was once universally condemned as a vulgar waste of public money. During his time as Prince Regent, the profligate George IV had already spent a fortune creating the Brighton Pavilion and redesigning Windsor Castle. None of this, however, was enough for the new King and in 1825 he asked the ultra-fashionable architect John Nash to upgrade his mother's old home, the then Buckingham House. In 1827 George ordered the demolition of his old home, Carlton House in the Mall, despite having spent hundreds of thousands of pounds on it.

Nash's original estimate was £250,000, but this doubled in the first four years. A year later costs were still multiplying and he was sacked. The final result was met with horror. "I never saw anything that might be pronounced a more total failure in every respect," wrote one critic.

The British monarchy has always been as cavalier with its palaces as with its favours. Old residences have been disposed of like a soiled glove and new ones commissioned every new season. A new palace was a symbol of power, obliterating what was often a discredited past and glorifying the new regime.

Not a single palace has remained in its original form since the Middle Ages, with the exception of the Tower of London, which also served a



Prince Albert supervised the building of Osborne House, top, in the Isle of Wight and Balmoral in Scotland, above. Centre: Sunninghill Park, Berkshire

Buckingham Palace? I never saw a more total failure in every respect

were run by government departments and there was a lot of bureaucracy, which rather took over the family's private life," says Jonathan Kinghorn of English Heritage. The Queen and Consort were looking to develop a private residence which would be free from official restrictions.

Osborne was built from their private means to emphasise its role as a family house and its light, uncluttered style set the trend for later Victorian homes. "The whole scale is really small and intimate," Mr Kinghorn says. There is only one royal bedroom, the prince had to walk all around the private rooms to perform his toilet.

Not everyone was taken with Osborne. One guest, Lord Rosebery, thought the drawing room "the world's ugliest until I saw the one at Balmoral". He was not the only one to have reservations

about the Highland hideaway. Many guests were appalled at its pseudo-Scottish ambience. Albert designed his own "Balmoral" tartan, still worn by his descendants. Victoria acquired the castle's decor was obsessively Caledonian. Lord Clarendon remarked in 1886 that "The thistles are in such abundance that they would rejoice the heart of a donkey if they happened to look like his favourite repast, which they don't."

Prince Charles, who loves his great-great-grand-

parents' home, would have almost certainly been horrified, had he been there to witness its construction. "For a long time I have felt strongly about the wanton destruction which has taken place in this country in the name of progress," he wrote in *A Vision of Britain*, his 1989 polemic against modernist architecture.

Albert had no such scruples. When he acquired the Balmoral estate in 1852, he ordered the demolition of the existing house, designed 20 years before (itself displacing a much older castle) and put the new one 100 yards to the north of the original site.

Charles has also expressed admiration for Sandringham, the Norfolk house that Victoria bought in 1862 for her eldest son Bertie, Prince of Wales, later Edward VII. Bertie, following his father's example, had in fact destroyed the original Georgian building, replacing it with a mock-

Jacobean structure. In 1956 James Pope-Hennessy visited Sandringham as part of the research for his official biography of Queen Mary. He described it as "hotel-like" and "tremendously vulgar". "To sum up: this is a hideous house," he concluded.

More recently, there has been a general outcry over Sunninghill Park, the Duke and Duchess of York's £5 million Berkshire residence. Since its construction, in 1990, the 50-roomed house, commonly known as Southwick and replete with cinema, pool and a lavatory seat that plays "The Star-Spangled Banner", has been compared to a Tesco superstore, an out-of-town DIY outlet and described by *Country Life* as a "conservationists' hate object".

Sure sign that in centuries to come it will have a sell-out souvenir shop, stocked with porcelain Budgie helicopters and be a Grade I listed building.

Bring in the Fat Controller

Railtrack should recognise that its employees in the signal boxes are more than just train spotters

I FOUND myself wondering, as the clock struck twelve, the train approached Reading and the signalmen walked out of their boxes, what the Fat Controller from *Thomas the Tank Engine* would make of it all. It was strike day in the eighth week of the signalmen's dispute, here we were on the skeleton service to Taunton, and my daughter was just asking whether that meant we should all be skeletons by the time we got there when our tickets were checked for the eighth time in 20 minutes by yet another conductor. Even a seven-year-old could see it was a funny sort of a strike when railway staff outnumbered passengers by about 4 to 1. The Fat Controller would be sure to have something to say.

He undoubtedly would, but what? If he got on to the office in Swindon to ask what the blazes was going on, the chances are he'd get some smooth-talking marketing person from an outfit called Regional Railways South Wales and West. This person would be able to tell him nothing about trains, but would go on about the money that RRSWW has invested in teaching its conductors to speak French so they can say "nous arrivons à Carmarthen" to passengers from Brussels.

The Fat Controller would not wait to be told that he need not memorise this outfit's name because it would be called something else by October. He'd try a more familiar-sounding entity called InterCity Great Western, but if he got hold of the station manager at Taunton he'd be disappointed again: the modern station managers don't deal with operational matters, only with "customers". You may imagine his state of mind after an organisation called British Rail has shrugged its shoulders and passed him on to something called Railtrack run by an arrogant oil man.

What if the Fat Controller, appalled by now, marched into a signal box? If he picked the most modern type, an integrated electronic control centre known as an EEC box, what he would actually find is a signalman doing a controller's job. No matter that he's still called a "bobby" as signalmen have been since the days when they policed the track by waving flags, and no matter that he's still paid walking time, even though as a relief bobby what he probably gets is petrol money.

The job he's doing, with his automatic route-setting gadgetry and his VDU, is the controller's job of intervening only when there's a strategic decision to be

made, such as what to do with the freight train that has engine trouble and is lagging behind schedule when there's an express coming up behind.

The Fat Controller would have no hesitation in giving this man a serious salary, a tall hat, a waistcoat with watch-chain and spats. To call him a blue-collar worker would be manifestly absurd. Damn it, the fellow's controlling all the trains between Marylebone and Banbury, where there used to be at least ten separate boxes.

As for the sleek, windowless, carpeted and air-conditioned office of a power signal box (PSB) at Wimbledon, where a whole team of people in smart indoor clothes fiddle about with flashing lights and companionably control the whole of southwest London, what has that in common with an isolated old box full of greasy levers?

But then, what if the Fat Controller went on and investigated a few other signal boxes? He might be shocked to find still in service the old "absolute block" boxes, so called when the Victorians divided the track into blocks and ruled that only one train could ever enter each block.

He would find the youngest, most junior signalmen in these boxes, with the mechanical signals now electronically controlled but all the old bells and paraphernalia still in place. He'd also find plenty of examples operating on the track circuit block system that came in before the Second World War when it was found possible to make the trains themselves trigger signals as they passed over the track.

HE WOULD, in short, find all the history, traditions and, of course, myths of the railways laid out before him. He would find easy-going "bobbies" in amenable places like the old Great Western territory prepared to sign agreements obliging them to do as they have always done and step out of their boxes to give the engineers a hand when the level crossing breaks down, and he will find truculent fellows in Leeds and Manchester prepared to do nothing of the sort.

He would hear of anxieties about impending social changes, and plans to replace the seniority principle for promotion with NVQ-type exams. Overall, though, he'd find no problems that an experienced railway manager with a background of sound working relationships and a shrewd grasp of priorities could not tackle. Ah, but there's the rub...

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Baseball's millionaire bad boys strike out

Some of America's wealthiest and most spoilt sports stars are in dispute over pay. The fans will be the losers, says Martin Fletcher

Only in America would millionaires have the gall to go on strike. Barring a last-minute settlement, America's grossly pampered baseball players are planning to down bats on Friday because their teams' owners want to curb their astronomical salaries. In doing so they will cut short one of the most exciting seasons in memory. Imagine the outrage if English country cricketers suddenly walked off the field in mid-summer and left the championship unfinished.

While the average American gets paid just under \$30,000 (£20,000), the lowest paid Major League players will this year earn \$109,000 (£70,000). The average Major League wage is \$1.2 million (£780,000) and has been rising at a rate of 19 per cent a year for nearly two decades. Thirteen players now earn more than \$5 million (£3.2 million), while Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants earns a staggering \$7.3 million (£4.7 million).

Apologists and free-marketisers can muster umpteen arguments to justify such vast rewards. The biggest stars doubtless generate more than their salaries in extra gate receipts. Hollywood's top entertainers earn twice as much. And yes, the players are constantly on the road between February and October and may not last more than six seasons.

That said, most Americans would give their non-pitching arms to play baseball every night — all the more so if they were treated as demi-gods by all and sundry. They would probably behave better too.

Baseball players have never been

saints. Even Babe Ruth, the ultimate baseball hero, drank, gambled and womanised ferociously. But the present-day bunch are, with several rare exceptions, a notably unattractive lot. They chew and spit and scratch their private parts. They abuse each other and the umpires, and on occasion they even injure their fans. Vince Coleman, a New York Mets player, was arrested last year after he threw a powerful firecracker into a crowd outside a stadium, injuring a woman and two children. Coleman's teammate, Bret Saberhagen, displayed marginally more discrimination by spraying bleach at reporters.

This season alone, two members of the San Diego Padres have been caught in a prostitution sweep in New York, two Toronto Blue Jays were arrested after fighting with police, and two other legendary names — former Los Angeles Dodger Darryl Strawberry and the New York Mets' Dwight Gooden — have got into trouble for drug abuse. Albert Belle of the



Darryl Strawberry had to move clubs after he took drugs

Cleveland Indians, the season's top batter, was last week suspended for filling his bat with cork. An illegal practice (designed to make the ball go further) that makes Mike Atherton's cricket ball-dusting look innocuous.

That said, it is no easier to sympathise with the owners. Having rushed to attract the best players with

large salaries, they now protest that 19 of the 28 Major League teams are losing money because their wage bills have risen so fast. They want to limit the total amount each team may spend on salaries, arguing sanctimoniously that this would help poorer clubs compete.

The owners' claims of impoverishment are hard to check because they do not open their books, but the idea that baseball is an industry in distress is simply absurd. If they do lose money it can only be as a result of gross mismanagement. Baseball revenues, approximately \$185 million (£128 million) in 1984, reached a staggering \$1.8 billion (£1.2 billion) last year. Total attendance was a record 71 million. New franchises in Miami and Denver were snapped up at \$100 million (£65 million) apiece, and team values rose precipitously.

Eli Jacobs sold the Baltimore Orioles for \$173 million (£112 million), more than twice what he had paid just four years earlier. The New York

Yankees, for whom the widely-loathed George Steinbrenner paid \$10 million (£6.5 million) in 1973, are now worth \$250 million (£160 million). Few owners are sufficiently concerned about alleged losses that they would consider selling their clubs.

The losers in this battle between the millionaires and billionaires over how to divide the game's enormous spoils (their eighth dispute in 22 years) will be the public. Millions of Americans will be robbed of the last third of a vintage baseball season in which ding-dong battles for top spot are still raging in five of the six Major League divisions, six players are on course to hit 50 home runs for the first time since 1977, and three players are threatening to break Roger Maris's all-time record of 61.

For the rest of the summer they will be deprived of the private pleasure to be gleaned each morning from dissecting the previous night's scores, and of a fall-safe subject for small talk with friends, workmates and strangers. Above all, they will be cruelly disabused of their fond notion that baseball was about more than mere money and that the players felt some loyalty to fans.

They will feel like the small boy who approached Shoeless Joe Jackson after he and seven other Chicago White Sox admitted accepting bribes to lose the 1919 World Series. "Say it ain't so, Joe," the boy tearfully implored as he tugged at his hero's sleeve.

Spotting banned drugs in substances can often be more difficult than it might at first seem

Do athletes know what they take?

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

Solomon Wariso, the athlete barred from the European championships for taking Ma-huang, has something in common with many of my patients: he was taking ephedrine without being aware of it. Ephedrine sulphate has about 300 aliases listed in *Martindale's Pharmacopoeia*. How many Australians, for instance, taking Vick's decongestive cough syrup realise that its active ingredient is ephedrine sulphate and that if they took a dose before competing in a race might later be arraigned before the authorities? Conversely, rather surprisingly, in Britain Vick's Vaso-syrup for chesty coughs and nasal congestion, Vick's Vapour

Rub and Vick's Children's Cough Syrup don't contain ephedrine; their active ingredient is dextromethorphan-hydrobromide, a cough suppressant, which forms part of the formulation of more than 250 different proprietary preparations, including such well-known ones as Benedryl, Actifed, Day Nurse, Night Nurse, Lemsip and Coldrex. Given this plethora of names and the multi-ingredient nature of many of the more homely remedies that may have similar names but

be of different composition in different countries, athletes would be well advised, if they feel ill, to pass the chemist shop and look up in *Martindale* any medicine they buy, find out what its composition is and then consult a doctor versed in the rules of the Amateur Athletic Association before they swallow so much as a drop. Wariso didn't, in fact, take ephedrine hydrochloride or sulphate, the commonly used alkaloids derived from the *Ephedra* plant, or now more

usually prepared synthetically. Wariso took ephedra itself, a herbal preparation made from the dried young branches of different species of the plant. In China, the treated roots are also used in the overall mix and in Chinese medicine ephedra, whether derived from the roots or the



branches, is known as Ma-huang. If only Wariso had remembered the training he had before taking his degree in biochemistry and had packed his pharmacopoeia with his running shoes, he would have found that the ingredient is discussed in depth. He would have learnt that the manufac-

turer's promise that the herbal preparation Up Your Gas carried a great kick and was "the most potent pill of its kind on the market" owed whatever doubtful power it had to the mundane ephedrine, a standby of doctors before more sophisticated equivalents were available. It stimulates the central nervous system with an effect similar to that of adrenalin but, whatever Up Your Gas's purveyors may say, this is not as strong as that of adrenalin. Ephedrine has a stimulant action on

the respiratory system and causes bronchodilation and has been used even within the past 20 years in the treatment of asthma.

Its effect on the cardiovascular system is more complex, but it invariably quickens the heart rate and raises the blood pressure. Ephedrine is still used in nose drops or sprays to relieve the symptoms of congestion and of a runny nose, whether the runny nose is the result of a cold, hay fever, or even the side-effect of another drug.

Ephedrine nose drops have the disadvantage that if used for a long time they can cause a rebound effect, so that after the initial relief of the nasal passages, the patient's congestion returns twofold.

Solomon Wariso should have been put off by the description of Up Your Gas pills as "the wildest and craziest product around". For though modest amounts may cause some excitement and can be mentally stimulating, taken in excess, ephedrine causes irritability, confusion and even delusions, hallucinations and paranoia. In small quantities, ephedrine might improve athletic performance; in larger doses it could destroy it.

Free from creeping fears

Virtual reality systems are helping sufferers to overcome their phobias, reports Dr Simon Wessely

A few months ago ITV carried one of these trendy car commercials — all strange images and orange landscapes. This one also included several close-ups of a large snake. The purpose was unclear, although my copy of *Pseud for Beginners* says that it is a sexual symbol. This snake figured prominently throughout the commercial. The final result was stylish, opaque and rather irritating, but presumably it sold the car.

However, some people will have reacted to that particular commercial with something stronger than irritation. The Independent Television Commission received a number of complaints from members of the public who had experienced great distress after viewing the commercial because of the lurid pictures of the snake. These people were sufferers from snake phobias.

A phobia is an intense irrational fear of an object or situation, out of proportion to the stimulus and accompanied by the desire to avoid that object or situation. It is a perfectly rational fear, but it is not experience intense feelings of fear when confronted by a live snake. The resulting flow of adrenaline serves a purpose, known as "fight or flight", and allows us a surge of energy either to confront the situation, or, more sensibly, run away. However, it is not rational to experience the same emotions when confronted by a picture of a snake, a circumstance in which "fight or flight" is unnecessary.

A typical snake phobia probably causes little distress or inconvenience, except an aversion to trendy car commercials. Other phobias, however, can be accompanied by devastating effects on psychological health and physical functioning. A person with agoraphobia (fear of crowds) may experience feelings of anxiety so overwhelming that they are unable to tolerate such mundane activities as shopping or using public transport. Agoraphobics may be unable even to leave their home in any circumstances, and instead be condemned to a hermit-like existence.

The good news about phobias is that, unlike some psychiatric disorders, they are easily treatable. Provided the patient can be persuaded to cooperate with treatment, success is the rule rather than the exception. The basis of treatment is exposure. Instead of avoiding the feared situation, be it a restaurant or supermarket, the patient is encouraged to return to it in a planned way. Because the fear is irrational (supermarkets may be unpleasant, but they are not dangerous) the patient learns to tolerate the anxiety provoked by the situation for increasing lengths of time. Starting with less frightening situations such as a corner shop on a quiet day, the patient gradually moves on to more



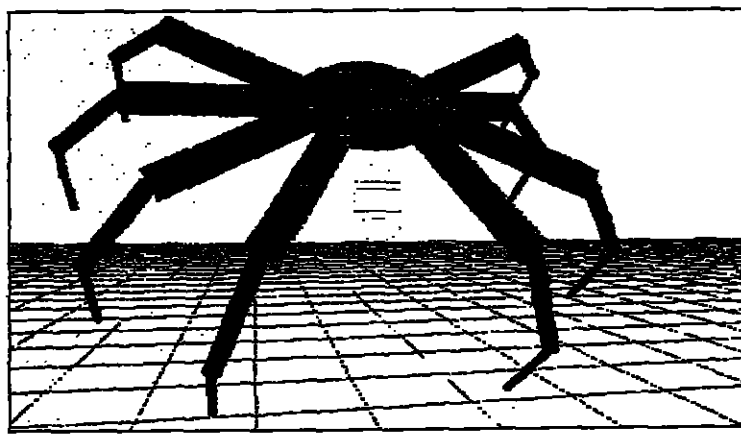
Spiders can induce a fear in people out of all proportion to their size and potential for danger. Sometimes even a picture will cause unease

difficult tasks, culminating in Staircase on the Friday before Christmas. Each new task is practised until the anxiety disappears.

There are various ways of carrying out this exposure treatment. An agoraphobic who refused to use the Underground might be encouraged to begin by simply imagining a train journey. Later patient and therapist could embark on short trips together, before the patient finally makes a journey on his or her own. A person with a cat phobia would start by looking at pictures of cats, then spend time in a room with a cat and finally begin to stroke the cat.

The principle of treatment is simple. Designing the treatment programme, however, may take a lot of ingenuity. Researchers at the Communication Research Group at Nottingham University and the Institute of Psychiatry have recently developed a novel way of treating phobias using the latest technology, virtual reality.

VR describes a method by which computers are programmed to generate simulations of reality so real that



Virtual reality uses computer-generated images to dispel anxiety

the eye and mind cannot distinguish them from the real thing. The computer-generated image can be projected onto a binocular screen contained within an apparatus that the patient carries, like a helmet, on the head.

In recent years VR has started to be

used in several aspects of medicine. It shows great promise for teaching practical procedures such as surgery, allowing the surgeon to practise new techniques without the need for a real warm body. Applications have also been developed in imaging and radiotherapy. However, the Institute

of Psychiatry project is one of the first applications of VR to psychiatric treatment.

VR's advantages are that it is possible to reproduce the feared environment realistically without going to the trouble of finding obliging cats or spiders that will behave on cue. The intensity of the stimulus can be gradually increased according to the needs of individual patients, who can also learn to treat themselves without the aid of an expert, thus saving money.

Dr Alex Lewis and Dr Tony David are now carrying out a randomised controlled trial comparing the use of VR with more conventional treatments for phobias. They are starting with patients suffering from a simple spider phobia. Anyone who thinks they have such a phobia, and wants to be rid of it, can write to them at the Department of Psychological Medicine, Institute of Psychiatry, Camberwell, London SE5.

Dr Wessely is senior lecturer in Psychological Medicine at King's College School of Medicine.

A normal life in the balance

Vertigo can be a debilitating and frightening experience for victims

THE brief severe spell of vertigo which I suffered on holiday last year gave me an unexpected insight into this frightening condition. For several hours I had the disturbing sensation that the room was rotating rapidly past my eyes. It quickly became clear that the sudden illusion of this rotation came on only if my head was turned to one side. I could actually stop the feeling if I slowly moved my head the other way. It was unnerving — I felt I was going to fall down, although I was lying in bed.

I was experiencing benign positional vertigo, and it was probably related to a recent viral illness. Most of the time the cause of this usually short-lived condition is not known, although cases sometimes come on after surgery to the inner ear, or in people who have suffered from chronic ear infections. It usually gets better by itself.

At least a quarter of people aged more than 50 suffer from dizziness and light-headedness, and I now realise how frustrating it must be to be told: "It's just your age and you have to live with it." Certainly, the complex mechanism which controls balance does suffer wear and tear with age. To maintain normal balance requires good eyesight, a properly working inner ear, and a steady flow of information from cells in the joints called proprioceptors, which tell us where our joints are positioned and how they are moving.

Recently the disgruntled husband of a patient of mine moaned that he had been forced to hang out the washing because every time his wife tried to do it she became terribly dizzy as she looked up. The number of working proprioceptors in her neck had decreased over the years, and this, coupled possibly with arthritis, was giving her the feeling that she was off balance. Other less common causes of imbalance include an irregular heart beat, anaemia, and postural hypotension, or a sudden change in blood pressure, which occurs when rising.

Meniere's disease, which causes vertigo but is rare, is associated with a hearing loss and a feeling of fullness in one or both ears. Eventually the vertigo decreases but hearing loss can be permanent. Occasionally, a rare form of

cancer, the acoustic neuroma, presents as vertigo and hearing loss.

Can anything be done to treat dizziness? Drug remedies have side effects which can make matters worse. Stemetil, or prochlorperazine, is useful when vomiting accompanies the start of an acute attack of vertigo. However, many experts think that this drug is ineffective in the long term, and can produce confusion and lower blood pressure.

Antidotes such as cinnarizine may help in the short term but their side effects — dry mouth and blurred vision — limit their value. Betahistine increases the blood flow to the inner ear, and diuretics, tablets which encourage you to pass more water, can also be tried.

The room was rotating rapidly past my eyes'

Common sense will tell us that if poor eyesight is the cause of the problems with balance, then an optician can help by advising on spectacles or by identifying cataracts.

I found the vertigo which I had a few hours quite frightening, but everyone knows that the opposite can

also happen: panic can cause feelings of dizziness, and more than three quarters of patients who suffer from panic attacks describe feeling dizzy during an attack.

Patients are encouraged to carry out a range of movements of their head, some of which may actually provoke the dizzy feelings, in order to stimulate and "retrain" the inner ear, and the parts of the brain which control balance. If the input to the brain from the ear and special nerve cells in the joints is poor, the brain, with sufficient stimulation, can compensate for poorer quality of the input and the feelings of being off balance gradually disappear. The psychological symptoms of panic diminish too, as the person begins to realise that balance is improving.

DR KIERAN SWEENEY
The author is a GP in Exeter

How parents can take the pain out of a child's visit to hospital

Children dislike pain and their parents suffer with them. What neither of them may realise is that their doctor, too, endures anxiety and distress. "This will hurt me more than it hurts you" may be the traditional schoolmasterly excuse but it applies also to those who work in hospitals.

Doctors have various techniques to prevent their patients' physical suffering. For example, except in dire emergency, no child need be hurt when blood is taken. A remarkably effective local anaesthetic cream can be applied to the skin under an adhesive cover. After about an hour it will have penetrated the skin surface, making insertion of a hypodermic needle or intravenous cannula painless.

Where the treatment is more severe, for example when fluid is removed from around the spinal cord by lumbar puncture, an anaesthetic solution, similar to that used by dentists, can be infiltrated slowly

through an area of skin already deadened by cream.

If fear and distress, rather than pain, is likely to be the issue, the solution is more difficult. Parents sometimes ask if their child can have a sedative drug. Far from sending the child into a gentle sleep, drugs such as Valium may have no detectable effect or, sometimes, turn the patient into a raging fury.

A better approach is for nurses and doctors to appeal to a child's natural sense of wishing to please while acting themselves in a calm, friendly but firm manner. Much depends upon children's previous experiences of life's unpleasantnesses, their self-confidence and the degree of trust they have learnt to place in adults. Unusually anxious parents do their child no favour by transmitting their own fears of the world.

Because parents vary so much in their ability to contain their distress and to comfort their child, doctors differ in

Dr Harvey Marcovitch on the bedside psychology that can help calm young patients

their readiness to have them around while they treat the patient. You need a steady hand and a cool nerve to slide a hollow tube into a vein of scarcely larger calibre in the arm of a struggling child.

For the young doctor inexperienced with infants, any perceived silent criticism from a mother as repeated attempts are made to insert a drip may be too much. She may be asked to leave or not even invited to be present in the first place. This may seem hard on the child but if the result is a quicker, easier procedure then



it is being cruel to be kind. One approach has been researched over seven years by a team led by Dr Howard Bauchner at Boston City Hospital, Massachusetts. Dr Bauchner, describing his research in *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, the journal of the British Paediatric Association, deliberately teaches parents how best to comfort their children when doctors have no alternative but to hurt them.

In 1980, he reported that of 250 parents interviewed in his hospital's emergency department, nearly eight out of ten

wanted to be present when their child had blood drawn or a drip inserted. Of the remainder, half said they would be frightened and half thought their child would suffer more pain if they stayed.

Dr Bauchner and his colleagues noted that doctors often failed to ask parents if they wished to stay. Worse still, they used non-verbal behaviour to exclude them, such as drawing the bed curtains or turning their back to parents.

In 1992, he tried an experiment: parents of children

under three were divided into three groups — those who did not want to stay, those who did and those who not only remained with their infant but were taught what to do to help.

The instructions were to sit or stand near the head of the bed, talking to and touching their child but not being involved in restraining them. They were told never to tell the child falsely that they would not be hurt and to explain that it was not a bad thing if they cried.

Nine out of ten parents were willing and able to follow these simple suggestions, while of the group not taught, less than half adopted them unprompted. Parents who were present but not shown how to assist were less satisfied with how their children were treated than both the other groups.

Primary school children told the Boston doctors that what might help them most was to be allowed to cry or scream if

they wanted to and to have a parent hold their hand. Adolescents preferred to be silent and to concentrate on telling themselves they could take it and it would be soon over. As any mother might predict, they preferred not to hold hands, but to have a parent standing by.

So what should parents do? Firstly, hope that they meet sympathetic hospital staff and not get into a confrontation if they do not. A doctor who has had an argument is less likely to wield a needle skilfully if only because anger makes your hand shake.

Tiny infants should be swaddled and offered a dummy, older ones stroked and soothed throughout. Toddlers may sometimes be distracted by a song, a story or a piece of jewellery, while school children can be asked what they think would help them most.

Dr Marcovitch is a consultant paediatrician at Horton General Hospital, Banbury.

Practical Life Extension

Many scientists believe humans are biologically capable of living much longer than most of us actually do — perhaps even as much as 120 years.

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Stopping the second exodus

Michael Dynes reads how Britain tried to contain the Jews

The appalling dilemmas facing Labour's post-war Government in trying to block illegal Jewish immigration into Palestine before the creation of the State of Israel in 1948 are well recorded. But just what desperate measures the Government was prepared to countenance to stanch the flow is revealed by secret documents from the Cabinet Office, which were yesterday shown exclusively to *The Times* by the Public Record Office.

The documents show the Foreign Office trying to stop the balance of Arab and Jew in the population of Palestine being altered by illegal immigration. This was to embolden the pugnacious Foreign Secretary, Ernest Bevin, in a feud with Zionists and their sympathisers in Britain and abroad which would outlive Labour's term of office.

A joint intelligence committee report dated April 1947 (shortly after Britain had decided to hand over the Palestinian problem to the United Nations) warned that "every effort will be made by the Jewish Agency to increase the flow of illegal Jewish immigrants to Palestine."

The report shows how badly the Government was rattled by the scale of the problem. It estimated that 35,000 Jews in Europe were waiting for immediate embarkation to Palestine. In the American zone of Germany alone, a further 140,000 were awaiting passage at a later date. The British administration in Palestine could not cope with such a surge.

Repeated attempts failed to persuade the French government to abolish the transit quota limiting the number of Jews travelling across France. "This quota, coupled with the laxity in controlling departures from the south of France, constitutes a 'running sore,'" one Cabinet Office document said.

Similar representations were made in Washington, but the document added: "It was evident that we shall get nowhere with the State Department." The Cabinet was particularly anxious about a report that the US Political Action Committee for Palestine was calling on President Truman to lend-lease a number of DC4 transport aircraft to fly illegal immigrants to Palestine in an "Exodus by Air" operation.

In the absence of any support from America and France, Britain was forced to rely heavily on M15 and M16 to ships being used to run the Royal Navy's blockade of Palestinian waters. By the summer of 1947, they had identified 37 ships hired by Jewish organisers, many of which flew the Panamanian flag.

One of the files held by the Public Record Office is still being treated as too sensitive to release, despite last year's open government initiative. It deals with the Royal Navy's boarding of the refugee ship *Exodus*, which caused a storm of protest around the world

and was the subject of a novel by Leon Uris. In addition, a blacklist was compiled of everyone involved in providing ships, supplies or captains for the illicit traffic, in an attempt to delay or deny the vessels port services.

Strenuous efforts by the Foreign Office succeeded in persuading the Panamanian *chefe d'affaires* in London to revoke registry of some vessels. But such diplomatic efforts had little impact on the flow of illegal immigrants. In an act of desperation, the Cabinet Office dispatched a cable to its diplomats, entreating them to "use whatever language appears to you most appropriate" to convince other governments that "this traffic... is likely to have unfortunate effects on our relations with them."

But the documents acknowledge that the task was impossible. "The immigrants were often in possession of correct passports and visas valid for entry to countries such as Costa Rica and Panama." Consequently, the port authorities in America, France, Italy and Romania could do little to prevent embarkation, even if they had wanted to.

Faced with a desperate situation the Cabinet debated desperate measures. A plan to introduce legislation giving the British Government power to stop and search any vessel on the high seas suspected of carrying Jewish immigrants was abandoned when legal advisers warned that such action would violate international law, and would probably provoke other countries into stopping British ships in retaliation. A similar plan to force Lloyd's to withhold insurance was abandoned when it became clear that alternative cover could be obtained elsewhere.

By May, the Cabinet Office's illegal immigration committee had decided to use the BBC to counter what it called the propaganda of the Jewish Agency. "Many Jews in Europe are being enticed to Palestine with stories of milk and honey," said a position paper. "The committee has agreed on factual information to be put on the BBC European broadcast to counter this propaganda." The information included news items explaining that "Palestine today is a land of outrage and strife" and that "there are many Jews in Palestine who are eager to return to Europe but they dare not do so for fear of reprisals by terrorists."

By the time the Palestinian mandate had been surrendered to the UN in May 1948, when the State of Israel was proclaimed, Britain had absorbed 200,000 Jewish immigrants at home and had allowed 500,000 legal immigrants to enter Palestine. But Britain's search for a continuing role in the Middle East and the Foreign and Colonial Office's tilt towards the Arabs meant that Bevin found himself fore-armed with an anti-Semitic.

Squabbles over income tax rates are political not fiscal calculations, writes Andrew Dilnot

Why Labour's tax pledges don't add up

The silly season is obviously upon us when politicians go out of their way to trumpet each other's tax cutting pledges. Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, according to some stories planted in the Sunday newspapers, are said to be thinking of slashing the basic rate of income tax to 15 pence in the pound. The last time the British public heard this sort of rhetoric was when Norman Lamont, as Chancellor, introduced a reduced rate of 20 pence at the bottom of the income-tax schedule, just before the 1992 general election.

No evidence has been produced to show that Labour is seriously considering tax cuts. The suggestion probably has more to do with internal Labour Party feuding than serious policymaking. But whatever the origins of the newspaper story, the totemic significance of income-tax rates in modern British politics is much to be regretted.

Although income tax is the single most important tax, it raises only one quarter of total government revenue, despite being one of the simplest, cheapest to collect, and fairest of taxes. The Conservatives are already in a mess of their own making, having promised to reduce the basic rate to 20 pence, so cutting revenue which they can ill afford to lose from arguably the best form of taxation. To pay for this unguarded and as yet

unachieved promise, some sensible changes have been introduced, such as the reduction of mortgage interest relief at source (Miras). Surprisingly, the Government has also frozen the higher-rate income-tax threshold, so that three times as many people as in 1979 pay the higher rate. And now Labour is said to be thinking about going even further.

The precise nature of the ideas being considered is unclear, but it seems to involve a reduction in the basic rate from 25 pence to 15 pence, paid for by the removal of Miras, by imposing a tax on pension contributions and by ending some or all personal allowances. Three claims seem to be made in defence of these proposals: that the result would be fairer than the current system, would be simpler, and would make the economy more efficient. All three are dubious.

Such a reform would certainly redistribute income, but it would take from those on low incomes and give

to those who earn more. At present, a married person with an annual income of £5,165 or less pays no income tax, because of the personal allowance of £3,445 and the married couple's allowance of £1,720. Abolish these and such an individual would pay £775 in tax, even at a tax rate of 15 per cent. Some individuals just below the higher-rate tax threshold, earning close to £30,000, might gain that much from such a reform, because the loss of allowances would be more than offset by the reduction in the basic rate of tax.

If the aim is to redistribute from rich to poor, we should raise allowances and rates, taking the poor out of tax and increasing the gradient on which tax payments rise with income, rather than bringing the very poor into tax. And if the aim really is a "fairer" tax system in this sense, the indirect tax system — National Insurance contributions — needs far more attention than income tax.

It sounds compelling to say that re-

ducing tax rates and abolishing allowances simplifies the system. But abolishing allowances would mean bringing into tax many people on low and fluctuating incomes, at great administrative cost. The real problems of complexity, in practice, affect the tax affairs of the very rich, who are faced with absurdly complex capital-gains taxation, inheritance tax, trusts legislation and the interaction between personal and company tax.

Finally, the suggestion that cutting the tax rate from 25 pence to 15 pence would promote economic efficiency is overstated. Tax rates of 98 per cent, such as existed in 1978-79, are plainly silly, but few would argue that a tax rate of 25 per cent blunts incentives much, and 15 per cent could be achieved only by raising the rate for some from zero to 15 per cent, which would damage their incentives, albeit only slightly.

Earmarking taxes to pay for specific services is another way of attempting to reduce headline tax

rates. One might, for example, simply announce that the basic rate of tax is now 15 per cent, but that there is now a health service tax of 10 per cent. Such a change might make voters feel better, or suggest to them that they had some new control over spending on health, but they would be wrong. Health spending is about twice as much as is raised by 10 pence on the basic rate of income tax. Such an earmarked tax would not make it necessary either to increase or to reduce spending on the health service. It may be true that raising such a health tax would be easier than raising income tax (as the ease with which NI contributions have been raised suggests), but this would only be to mislead taxpayers about the extent of their control over politicians.

It is good to see the structure of the tax system debated openly, and it would be grossly unfair to imply either that Labour has a monopoly on any ideas about tax or that the latest set of ideas are Labour Party policy. But until the parties stop vying over which favours the lowest rate in this one small part of the tax system, and until they start talking seriously about the overall level and structure of spending and taxation, the silly season will last all year round.

Andrew Dilnot is the director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Still just crying, Woolf?

For all the talk about reducing the cost of going to law, nothing will happen

A headline without a verb leaped out as I turned the page: normally, the sole claim would bring a wince from me, or even a *sotto voce* "The country's going to the dogs". However, I knew what the headline meant, and really, no one needed a verb, though many might call for the smelling-salts. Though the headline said nothing but "£500,000", such a mighty sum, dangling from the top of the page, could come from nowhere but the law courts; and so it did.

The case was one in which a footballer was claiming damages; he had been so seriously injured on the field that his sporting career was at an end. The argument turned on whether it was a true accident, with no one to blame, or caused by an inexorably reckless action.

I have no qualification for taking sides in a matter like this, nor do I do so, though I can surely commiserate with the injured man. That said, nobody — or at least only somebody who long ago embarked upon a round-the-world voyage in a kayak and then lost his compass — needs to know what the very unenigmatic headline meant.

I am notorious for jeering at the legal system, though some of my very dearest friends are lawyers (it says much for their generosity that they don't cast me out of their friendship whenever I am seen dimming on my high horse, ready to lower a pike and charge their profession). But really, here is that poor devil of an injured footballer — never mind how he was injured — who will never kick a serious football again, and because of the way our legal system works, the law says that unless he was legally-aided it is possible that he may have to fork out five hundred thousand pounds.

But there are others, who dip their spoons deep in the gravy. There are 22 — and only 22 — legal firms of authorised transcribers. Quite apart from the winners and losers, there are all sorts of payments that the courts require and which must be fully recorded; with the Lord Chancellor's blessing, the Mechanical Recording Department of the High Court refuses to do anything so simple or practical as let solicitors buy copies of the master tape of what is said in evidence in court. Only



Bernard Levin

authorised shorthand writers are given copies of the master tape so that they can transcribe it at great expense to the parties. Nor does it stop there. Solicitors are forbidden to take anything as modern or labour-saving as their own tape-recorders into a court, as it might reduce the cost of litigation, speed things up or — heaven forbid — stop the official transcribers getting their hundredweight of flesh. (There are, no doubt, more expenses that must be paid by the wretched litigant: I was only pointing out that the monstrous size of the footballer's bill was not the end of money passing and swelling as the legal bills, where even the most ridiculous and venal cases must make a considerable hole in the nation's outgoings.)

Libel is by far the most disgusting court business — when I last wrote about this subject, I revealed that 98.67 per cent of libel cases are preposterous claims by the hopelessly oversensitive, and further research since then has shown that the proportion is now 99.32 per cent. Moreover, still further research shows that even among the genuine ones, only one-seventeenth of one per cent of cases actually do the plaintiff any real harm at all. Now a man who has had his livelihood violently ended (however accidentally), is obviously not in

the same class as the gold-digging libel plaintiff. Not, that is to say, when honesty and genuine loss are in the frame; but when it comes to money deserved, the stench overpowers anything that has gone before. To get to the point, I think that if an honest man who has lost a genuine lawsuit has to pay half a million pounds for losing it, there is something not just awry in the way we run our law, but something absolutely intolerable — a word meaning "that which cannot be tolerated". But it is.

Do not believe that I am just saying that lawyers' fees are monstrous, though they are. Lawyers, together with butchers, bakers and candlestick-makers will take what they can legally get: even journalists, when pressed, will shyly admit that they do take their wages, albeit blushing as they do so.

But at this point we can hear the clatter of horses' hooves, and we know that it is Lord Woolf who is

galloping to the rescue of the law, and its victims. And would you believe, these judges are men of stupendous intellect, and Lord Woolf... I am assured, is brilliant even among the most brilliant — that Lord Woolf has come to tell us, in his very own words that "it is only those with the deepest pockets who can risk going to law."

And when we have got our breath back — it took a long time — Lord Woolf had yet another astounding revelation; he is going to do something about it in only two years.

This is a revolution, no less, and I see the hand of Lord Mackay beyond it. Though I must suggest — discreetly and behind my hand — that the revolution may not break out next Wednesday, or indeed for a good many Wednesdays with Fridays thrown in. There are very few people in the law whom I admire as highly as Lord Mackay; nevertheless, his epoch-making announcement that solicitors were to be allowed audience in the High Court was made in 1989, and what has been achieved in fully five years can best be described from a colourful phrase in a remote Dutch patois as "bugger all".

And here we go again. Lord Woolf, now with Sir Thomas Bingham, the Master of the Rolls, is going to — well, let them both speak for themselves. Says Sir Thomas:

Essencing we have, and glory in it. Honing, we love dearly, and are proud of it. And now, to crown the whole thing, comes But But itself. The very But But says that there would be dangers if judges "dominated" proceedings. (But adds that there must be proper representation.) But declares "There is a fine line to be trod". (But adds that there must be proper representation.) But murmurs that "We are all in favour of greater judicial intervention". (But there must be proper representation.)

You see, it would be a disaster if a litigant were to escape the court with a few pounds left. On the other hand, some would not condone holding him down and going through his pockets. That is why people must have proper representation.

Now, I shall unfold my flag. On it, are embroidered many runes of great power and knowledge. I studied the hieroglyphs all night, speaking the appropriate magic words, and when dawn rose I was ready to put forward the runes and let them speak, while I saw my flag proudly fluttering at the mast. The runes had spoken, and what they said was that Sir Thomas Bingham and Lord Woolf will get a shocking dose of indignation, and nothing will ever come of it. You see, there must be proper representation.

Party politics

MICHAEL PORTILLO, we are told, plans to celebrate his ten years as an MP with an intimate little gathering for a thousand of his nearest and dearest at Alexandra Palace, complete with fireworks display and a film account of our new Employment Minister's career to date. All very jolly, I am sure, but maybe just a tad over the top for a man known to keep the purse strings pulled tight.

Compare, by contrast, the positively parsimonious precedent set by his Cabinet colleague Virginia Bottomley, who in May nipped out ten years in her seat of Surrey South West.

According to her constituency office, the occasion was marked by a modest event on a political admirer's farm near Godalming. About a hundred guests enjoyed a barbecue followed by an auction to boost association coffers. Bidding, I am told, was particularly brisk for home-made sausage, scone and promises of half or whole-day swims in pools owned by obliging association members. Pick of the anniversary auction, however, was a bottle of House of Commons whisky signed by John Major.

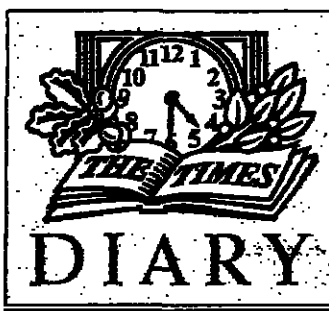
Mark Fox, who is Peter

Bottomley's research assistant as well as a committee member of the Wiley branch in Virginia's constituency, says the day was "not at all grand... It was a cakes and ginger-beer kind of day. A lovely, jolly family occasion with lots of children."

But support for Portillo's superior thrash comes from another of the class of '84, Bill Cash — even though in May he deliberately chose not to celebrate his own ten years as MP for Stafford. "Sir Hugh Fraser was MP for Stafford from 1945 to 1984, so throwing a big party for just a decade just didn't seem an essential. However, if Michael wants to do it, I think that's fine."

Of horrors

WHILE we're on the subject of Portillo, it seems his departure from the Treasury has sparked a sudden outbreak of midsummer madness among the department's staff. On Friday night, 20 Treasury officials were spotted clad not in pinstripes, but in fetching fishnet tights gyrating their way through a performance of *The*



Rocky Horror Show in London's West End.

None of those concerned is prepared publicly to discuss such a lively night on the tiles, but suffice it to say that spending cuts were temporarily forgotten. "It was just an office night out, and one or two of us let ourselves go," explained one from his Whitehall desk yesterday. Reassuringly, he was back in his work-a-day suit.

Horse sense

ROYAL EXPERTS searching for an explanation as to exactly why Lady Helen and Tim Taylor have chosen to call their son Columbus may have overlooked a vital clue — from the world of equestrianism. In 1974, Captain Mark Phillips not only won the tournament at Badminton, but picked up a bronze

medal in the world championships at Burghley. Five years later he made another successful appearance at Badminton, finishing third. On all three occasions, he was riding a splendid steed by the name of Columbus.

Douglas Bunn, of the All England Show-Jumping Ground at Hickstead, recalls the horse fondly. "He was a lovely big grey, bred on Exmoor, I think. When Columbus retired from competition, he won the affections of Prince Charles, who hunted him up with the Quorn and Belvoir in Leicestershire."

● Columbus Taylor's arrival will not have endeared him to his



young third cousin, Zenouska Mowatt, offspring of Princess Alexandra's daughter, Marina, and her husband Paul Mowatt. Not only has he upstaged her name, but he's also demoted her to 25th in line to the throne. Tears before bedtime, I predict.

Factuality

IT WAS while visiting his publisher in Kensington that thriller writer Murray Smith heard an enormous bang, discovered it was a bomb at the Israeli Embassy and knew that he had to act fast. He scurried to his typewriter and re-wrote the latest chapter of his novel.

It is, of course, a nailbiter about the threat of Islamic fundamentalist terrorism. "And in fact I had got to the point in my story where I wanted something to happen in London to develop my plot," he tells me. "It has not altered the plot at all. It was precisely what I needed."

And so to Smith's story, which I take up just as the bomber flees the Israeli Embassy, plops her wig into her Harrods bag and picks up a basket from an accomplice. "Into the basket went the Harrods bag, off came the navy blue skirt and cream silk blouse... within three minutes and eight seconds of



the bomb exploding, the red-haired female in the expensive blue suit and huge sunglasses had ceased to exist."

Popular vote

THE WIND of change continues to howl through the corridors of South Africa House in Trafalgar Square, with desks and desks being cleared for the first pop concert in the building since it was erected in 1935. By all accounts, tonight's concert should be a festive affair for it marks the British debt of Ashley Rae Dowling (pictured above, a veteran anti-apartheid campaign-

er. She is blessed, says one fan, with a voice that would melt stone. The eclectic and typically rhythmic performance by the celebrated Cape Town singer will be attended by the Deputy High Commissioner, Gert Grobler, who admits he is not well acquainted with her work. "I have never been a great fan, but it's very exciting to have her here." Younger members of staff, however, cannot contain themselves. "It's the first time that we have had this kind of music here," says one. "She is a megastar in South Africa."

P.H.S



LABOUR'S TAX DODGE

What Blair hopes to gain by fighting tax cut with tax cut

A fascinating trial balloon was floated by friends of Tony Blair over the weekend. Its message was that a future Labour government might slash the standard rate of income tax from 25 to 15 pence by abolishing all kinds of tax exemptions. This is not, economically, a serious proposal, as those who organised the floating knew well. But in the politics of today, the impracticability of the proposal does not mean that the Tories can ignore its challenge.

As shown by Andrew Dilnot, opposite, the cost of any such reduction in headline tax rates would far exceed the possible savings from eliminating mortgage tax relief, pensions allowances and other fiscal distortions. Assuming that the economy will have reached something like full recovery by 1997, there will, by the next election, be three ways for a future government, of whatever political colour, substantially to reduce income tax. It could cut a swath through public spending; it could vastly increase Britain's already excessive Public Sector Borrowing Requirement; or it could raise other taxes such as VAT and specific duties.

For any government that was absolutely determined to appear to cut the "headline" tax rate, as opposed to lightening the true burden of income tax, there might be also just one other option: to abolish personal income tax allowances, which currently exempt the first slice of income from tax. But as the IFS shows, this would amount to nothing more than a major complication of the tax system, bringing millions of low earners into the income tax net for the first time and causing a large redistribution of income from poor to rich.

Neither outdoing the Tories in their attacks on public spending, nor raising VAT nor redistributing wealth from rich to poor could seriously be contemplated by a Labour government, even one led by Tony Blair. This would leave Labour with only one option in order to outflank the Tories as the

party with the lowest tax promises: a Blair government would have to borrow even more than amounts already laid out in the Tories' none-too-austere economic plans. But then the ensuing financial crisis would rapidly wipe out the political benefits of lower taxes — and this is a point that the electorate and the Labour leadership, as well as the financial markets, would probably realise well before polling day.

Logically it might seem, therefore, that Labour's chances of outflanking the Tories as the party of low taxes were dim. What, then, could the friends of Mr Blair be up to? There might be two answers. First, Mr Blair is fighting a battle with his own Labour colleagues. While he may not seriously intend to cut taxes, he must persuade his left wing that tax increases to pay for public spending pledges are out of the question. Since attack is often the best means of defence, he may have decided that setting out his stall as a tax cutter would at least keep at bay the Left's demands for higher tax.

Secondly, and more dangerously for the Tories, it is in Labour's interests to persuade the public that the whole argument about headline income tax rates is a meaningless charade. As people have finally realised after the past two Budgets, it is quite possible for governments which mismanage the economy to keep down the rates of income tax and raise the total burden of taxes at the same time. Mr Blair is unlikely to make voters believe that Labour will really give them a 15p standard tax rate, but he might just convince them that all promises of arbitrary future tax cuts from politicians in election campaigns should be assigned the same negligible truth-value and cast into the realms of fantasy. Labour does not have to win the argument on taxes. All it has to do is muddy the waters sufficiently to reduce the power of income tax rates as an electoral issue. For Labour that would be a substantial achievement.

FISHING FOR SENSE

Does the Royal Navy enforce EU rules or British interests?

To most Britons, the conduct of the Royal Navy in the Bay of Biscay war must seem mystifying. British warships failed to intervene when Spanish boats attacked British fishing boats. The Navy had no hesitation, however, in boarding a Cornish vessel which it believed to be using illegal nets.

According to the skipper of the boat, the *Charisma*, the boarders used sledgehammers to smash into their competitors' wheelhouse. The risk that British fishermen might be breaking new European regulations was, it seems, judged a greater threat to peace on the high seas than axe-wielding Spanish fishermen slashing the nets of Cornish trawlers. Yet it emerged over the weekend that the *Charisma*'s nets were only 153 metres longer than the EC 2.5 kilometre maximum. The myth that this farcical incident must have caused in Madrid is not hard to imagine.

In one sense, the tuna war has confirmed the extraordinary openness of maritime life. Yet the conflict also exemplifies more general problems in the structure of European institutions. Under the 11-year-old European Fisheries Policy, Community-wide regulations are enforced by individual nations. This may be preferable to the federalist solution of an EC fish police with powers to override national navies. But it also reveals a nasty flaw in the doctrine of subsidiarity.

In a loose-knit Community, there is no guarantee that centrally determined regulations will be enforced with uniform rigour. It is certain, indeed, that they will not be. Every nation has different interests to defend, different cultural approaches to the implementation of rulebooks. While the British

and Irish navies have taken unambiguous action against trawlers suspected of breaking EC law, the Spanish government has demanded only patience of its own fishermen.

For Britain, there are two lessons in this episode. First, the Navy clearly responded disproportionately to the suspicion that the *Charisma* was carrying illegal nets. Showing good faith to one's partners is essential to the cohesion of a community. But the likely reaction of British fishermen should have weighed at least as heavily with the naval officers — and with their political masters — as the sensitivities of the distant Spanish apparently did. The Navy's actions may well have been within the letter of the law. But that does not mean they were wise.

Secondly, the boarding of the *Charisma* is only the latest example of Britain's tendency to enforce regulations that many of our partners ignore. Some would say that this is the true British disease and that our officials and lawkeepers have always been inclined to interpret rules too literally. Others would claim that the Navy's action exemplified the British spirit of fair play. William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, said yesterday that "our whole standing in this warfare rests on the fact that our people are abiding strictly by the rules".

This seems doubtful. It is much more likely that our European partners regard the Navy's intervention as a sign of weakness in a conflict that is bound to continue diplomatically and on the seas. They will surmise that adherence to the rules matters more to Britain than the protection of its interests. Whether that is true or not remains to be seen.

WELCOME TO AQABA

Jordan and Israel show that scars need not be permanent

It took just a few days of determined labour to build the new crossing on the border between Jordan and Israel which was opened yesterday. The short building schedule was in suitably stark contrast to the time taken to make the peace to which the crossing gives visible effect. To the governments of both countries, formal foes for longer than the citizens of either have deserved, the opening of Aqaba to Eilat was a true achievement in which to exult.

On his recent visit to London, King Hussein revealed that he has never felt as much at peace with himself as he does now. Israel, responding in kind to the King's moderation and good sense, has offered a framework for co-operation which will ensure that both countries profit from the dividend of a new Middle East. No one could suggest that the troubles of the region are over. The terrorist explosions that shook London last month served to remind that the enemies of peace with Israel are ruthless. In the autonomous Palestinian territory, Yasser Arafat continues to wrestle with hostile forces beyond his control as well as problems of his own creation. And Syria, whose refusal to invest in conciliation is a source of disquiet, continues to cast its resentful shadow over the region as its President broods over the implications of peace.

Yet in declaring peace with Israel over Syria's vigorous objections, King Hussein has added a second jewel to his distinguished crown. The first — to which his accord with Israel is not unrelated — was his

decision last year to restore parliamentary democracy to Jordan. The elections, which earned him the respect of his subjects, made him the only Arab ruler in the Middle East to govern a democratic society. It is this which has given the King his mandate to treat candidly with Israel, and which was certain to have been a factor in the trust placed in him by Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister.

Both countries stand to benefit from an end to conflict. Jordan, which was a pariah with the West for a bitter period after the liberation of Kuwait, has now been restored to the status of honoured guest in Washington: it is ironic that King Hussein now enjoys a warmer relationship with Mr Rabin than he does with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. Mr Rabin has, yet again, compelling evidence to take to his people that dialogue and compromise can be more effective guarantors of Israeli security than virility and muscle.

The accord between Amman and Tel Aviv will lead to a growth in trade and economic relations, without which no Middle East peace can be complete. In his idealistic book, *The New Middle East*, the Israeli Foreign Minister, Shimon Peres, devotes several pages to his vision of a regional common market. In the year of its publication — 1993 — many greeted his thesis with scorn. Yet a year later, his vision is coming to life. In their relations, both Israel and Jordan now see the other as "host, not hostage". Welcome to Aqaba; welcome to Eilat.

Root and branch plan for palace

From Professor Alan Peacock, FBA

Sir, I have spent the last 18 months preparing a learned lecture on the political economy of hereditary monarchy. I hope it is fit for delivery at the British Academy in October.

The academy is a tolerant body and I am sure that I shall not be prevented from offering views which support Mr Mowlem's general position (report, August 8) that the royal family should move into a purpose-built mansion and that Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle should be sold.

How right she is to emphasise that the past, important though it is for our confidence and wellbeing, must not be allowed to swamp the present.

Buckingham Palace has neither the historical nor architectural significance of Windsor or for that matter Holyroodhouse. I would go further than Dr Mowlem by suggesting that it should be sold off and, if so desired, erected elsewhere. This would leave a magnificent site as well as a wonderful opportunity for a building more in keeping with current perceptions of the status and functions of the monarchy.

Yours etc,
ALAN PEACOCK,
146/4 Whitehouse Lane,
Edinburgh 9,
August 8.

Homes for top brass

From Commander N. R. Messenger, RNR

Sir, Lady Fieldhouse (letter, August 5) is quite right: in these recessionary times Chequers and Chevening are an unwarranted burden on the hard-pressed British taxpayer.

The days of Empire are long gone, and after all Downing Street provides Prime Minister and Chancellor alike with more than adequate accommodation.

During her husband's tenure as Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet (and the Falklands Task Force) Admiral Sir John and Lady Fieldhouse put their residence to full use as an extension of the operations centre for the Falklands campaign. Lunchtimes there provided a unique opportunity for the key players to meet, in delightful informality, to the overall benefit of the enterprise.

Mrs Thatcher *et al* were able to discuss the operation informally, frankly, and, more important, without the hindrance of their ministers.

What price that in economic terms?
Yours faithfully,
NICK MESSINGER,
Guggleton Farm,
Station Road, Stalbridge, Dorset.
August 5.

London hospital cuts

From Sir Derek Boorman,
Chairman of the Royal Hospitals NHS Trust

Sir, Understandably, the announcement of the Royal Hospitals Trust Board's recommendation to centralise all its services at Whitechapel (report, July 30) has touched the emotions of those committed to St Bartholomew's and the London Chest Hospital, but we have to face facts: the cost of maintaining three separate hospitals is at the direct expense of patient care and cannot continue; development of Homerton Hospital will provide general services for some 5,000 cases from Hackney which are currently treated at Bart's and will accelerate the decline in activity at Smithfield; moreover, the Royal London Hospital is much better suited to serve the deprived population of East London.

The proposal to spend some £25 million on renovating the Royal London, accompanied by a further £88 million for new buildings, could provide East Londoners by the turn of the century with a strong teaching hospital of excellence. Together with the Corporation of London we will devise practical arrangements for the care of the City's commuters, including an effective ambulance service. I am confident that we can satisfy the corporation's legitimate concerns.

Finally, our purpose is to build upon the excellence of all three hospitals, not to destroy institutional traditions.

Yours sincerely,
DEREK BOORMAN, Chairman,
The Royal Hospitals NHS Trust,
5th Floor, Alexandra House,
The Royal London Hospital,
Whitechapel, E1,
August 1.

Surgical spirit

From Dr John Burscough

Sir, In my experience any patient of either sex asked, "What's the trouble?" (letters, August 5, 6) will immediately reply: "You're the doctor, you tell me."

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BURSCOUGH,
Kildare, 3 The Roostery,
Scawby, Brigg, South Humberside.
August 5.

Business letters, page 25

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Protecting historic battlefield sites

From Mr Selby Martin

Sir, In your series on battlefields [August 1-6; letters, August 6] your article on the battle of Shrewsbury (August 3) raises the question of just how big an area needs to be protected there. The battle, which took place on July 21, 1403, was notable for its extent and the number of men involved, of whom 1,600 are buried outside the memorial church which illustrates your article. In all, some 20,000 to 30,000 men were engaged in a hard-fought and bloody contest which extended over a wide swath of countryside.

The area of the battle must therefore have been very much greater than that of the churchyard, 200 by 150 metres in extent, designated by Shrewsbury Borough Council in the draft district plan as a county heritage site. Three hundred metres to the south of that site is the route of a projected link road, while land just over half a kilometre away is proposed for industrial development.

This is obviously a historical landscape of local and national importance. It should remain a place of peace and tranquillity, hallowed by the memory of the many who died in battle there, and its integrity must not be compromised by the proximity of roads and factories.

Yours faithfully,
SELBY MARTIN (Chairman,
Shrewsbury Branch, Council for the
Protection of Rural England),
Bear Steps Office,
St Alkmund's Square,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
August 4.

From Mr Philip Nind

Sir, As a direct descendant of John Hampden, the great Civil War patriot, may I gently dissent from the decision to exclude Chalgrave, one of the decisive battles of the Civil War.

On June 1643, Prince Rupert's army had failed to capture a convoy of chests of money worth £21,000 destined for the Parliamentarian regiment of the Earl of Essex, and was withdrawing to rejoin King Charles at Oxford. Hampden, with about 400 men, intended to delay the withdrawal until Essex's regiment arrived from a few miles away. Battle was joined and the fighting was fierce. But Rupert, with an army several times larger, defeated the Parliamentarians and withdrew to Oxford before Essex's men could arrive.

About 60 were killed and Hampden was mortally wounded, not by enemy action but by the explosion of his own pistol. He died in bed at Thame shortly after.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP F. NIND,
10 Albury Park,
Albury, Guildford, Surrey.

Dirty beaches

From the Chief Executive of
the English Tourist Board

Sir, Despite the Director General of the British Safety Council's assertion (letter, August 2) that the English Tourist Board has done little to improve the quality of our beaches, the ETB has campaigned long and hard on this matter.

Neither this board nor the resorts have the responsibility, or indeed the resources, to control water quality or sewage-related debris. The long-term need is for further investment in sewage treatment from the water companies, and the programme must be speeded up to ensure all our beaches reach quality standards.

In the meantime supreme efforts have been made by the major resorts, and considerable progress has been

From Mr R. J. Townshend

Sir, I must protest at the omission from your list of Heavenfield (635), the first battle fought by St Oswald, King of Northumbria, against an invasion by a British army under Cadwalla, King of Gwyneth.

Its site has been confirmed at High Brunton, six miles north of Hexham, in Northumberland, by archaeological evidence.

It is bisected by the military road, built in 1745 by General Wade, an excellent engineer but an appalling vandal, whose technique in constructing an all-weather road between Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Carlisle was based on using crushed stone derived from Hadrian's Wall.

The battle decided permanently that the area of Northumbria should be (a) dominated by Angles and (b) Christian. Had St Oswald lost the battle, a pagan British kingdom might have stretched from the Forth to the Trent and from the North Sea to the Irish Sea.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. TOWNSHEND,
Birkbony Conage, Wark,
Hexham, Northumberland.
August 1.

From Mr F. G. Fisher

Sir, Our action group was the chief protagonist in the struggle to save the Elre Heath battlefield from being converted into a gravel pit, as proposed by Staffordshire County Council.

In this rescue effort, our own research was supplemented by the scholarship of the National Army Museum of Britain. We presented our case to a public inquiry in February 1993 and we learned last winter that we had won.

We were, therefore, less than impressed to read the letter (August 6) from Mr Philip Morgan, a history lecturer at the University of Keele. You should know that Keele, which is supported in part by Staffordshire County Council, was approached by the council for their considered views as to the location of the battlefield.

Keele's interpretation provided the council scope to argue at the inquiry that they could site their quarry precisely where they had originally intended.

One might say, "fair enough". However, nowhere in Mr Morgan's letter is there any reference to his department's role in the inquiry, the fact that there was an inquiry at all or that his side lost.

Yours faithfully,
FREDERICK G. FISHER
(Chairman, Elre Heath and Folly
Wood Action Group),
Oakley Hall,
Market Drayton, Shropshire.
August 7.

made 165 beaches received the Tidy Britain Group's Seaside Award this year.

Our responsibility is to develop and promote tourism within the UK, improving the quality and standards of the industry. Hence our work with the local authorities to encourage regeneration of the resorts themselves.

We are concerned with the whole holiday, not just the swim in the sea. Our responsibility is to raise awareness of the issues at stake. Underinvestment in the basic infrastructure of a resort leads to failure to attract the private-sector investment needed to upgrade its accommodation and attractions.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN EAST,
Chief Executive,
English Tourist Board,
Thames Tower, Black's Road, W6.

Boy's hedge defence

From Ms Nicky Rowbottom

Sir, How pleasing to read (report, August 5) about James Silk and his successful defence of a Saxon hedge.

All too often children appear in the media either as victims or perpetrators of crime. James sets a good example of a child taking successful positive action against institutional vandalism against nature.

I congratulate him. In addition, I wish to give credit to the hundreds of young people across Britain who have taken part in the Enviroscope project, co-ordinated by the wildlife trusts.

Hedges across the country were surveyed by local children, often as part of the activities of Watch, the junior section of the trust movement. The findings (that the majority of hedges are neatly trimmed and limited to one species of shrub and an equally

limited range of wildlife) underline the rarity of James's Saxon hedge. Wildlife, from birds to mammals, prefers mixed old hedges — and so, it seems, do children.

Policy reversals mean that farmers are replacing hedges that have been grubbed out, but biodiversity cannot be replanted.

Until we have more junior activists like James looking after our precious natural heritage, people wishing to become involved are encouraged to contact their local county wildlife trust, and Watch. We need all the help we can get and, in return, offer ideas, information, activities and support.

Yours etc,
NICKY ROWBOTTOM
(Education Manager,
Suffolk Wildlife Trust),
Brooke House, The Green,
Ashbocking, nr Ipswich, Suffolk.
August 5.

The deaf as jurors

From Mr P. A. Tyler

Sir, As one who much admires Lord Ashley's courageous parliamentary career and his powerful advocacy of improvements for deaf people (letter, August 5) I believe that objections remain to their inclusion on juries.

Even if voice-recognition computers prove capable of all that is beginning to be claimed for them, the deaf juror would have to concentrate simultaneously on the screen and on the defendant's demeanour, perhaps for hours or days.

In the jury room his limitations in contributing an equal, independent and sensible voice to the deliberations

would be just as severe as they have been in the past. The scope for appeal against verdicts might be increased by argument, well founded or not, that a particular juror's grasp of the case had been inadequate.

Effective voice-recognition computers would give a tremendous boost to deaf people in churches, theatres, cinemas and other public buildings; but many responsible and conscientious deaf people would consider, as I do, a right to be a juror as a bridge too far.

Yours faithfully,
P. A. TYLER,
Wildwood, The Hyde,
Winchcombe, Gloucestershire.
August 5.

Prospect of more school upheaval

From the General Secretary of the
Society of Education Officers and
others

Sir, We are concerned about the current review of local government. Some changes are likely to come, but the natural instinct of our members in the education service, after the massive reforms of recent years, is to resist further upheaval.

We are concerned that some local authorities proposed in England and nearly all those now approved in Wales, will be too small to be as effective as they ought in providing services to our schools, their children or the public. Experience of previous reorganisations such as the abolition of the Inner London Education Authority has clearly demonstrated that inter-authority arrangements are not usually successful.

Our members are anxious about the diversion of resources at a time when education budgets are under immense pressure. In particular the recommended changes are, in our view, being rushed through at great speed and with virtually no consideration of their impact on service delivery.

We urge all those who are shortly to be consulted by the Local Government Commission to consider very carefully all the options on offer (also status quo, even if not on offer) and to satisfy themselves that any change in the form of organisation they support will produce local authorities able to operate strategically and to offer viable support to schools and other parts of the education service.

Yours faithfully,
JIM HENDY,
General Secretary,
Society of Education Officers,
DAVID HART
(General Secretary, National
Association of Head Teachers),
MARGARET MORRISSEY
(Chairman, National Confederation
of Parent Teacher Associations, 1991),
JOHN SUTTON
(General Secretary,
Secondary Heads Association),
BILL WRIGHT
(General Secretary, National
Association of Educational
Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants),
c/o 2nd Floor, 3-6 Alfred Place, WC1.
August 4.

Bottled or tap

From the Director of the
Water Companies' Association

Sir, The Chairman of the National Mineral Water Association (letter, July 30) puts great store by the fact that the product is drawn from protected sources uncontaminated by pollutants.

Water supply companies are not so fortunate. Many of their water sources suffer from pollution. Nonetheless they succeed in treating this water, often through sophisticated and expensive processes, so that it complies with the highest drinking-water quality standards in the world. And then they deliver it to over 99 per cent of households.

All this costs the average household in England and Wales 26p per day: a glass of water costs one thousandth of a penny on average. Why is bottled water so expensive?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SWALLOW,
Director,
The Water Companies' Association,
1 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.
August 2.

Jackpot chances

From Mr David Green

Sir, Pursuing Professor Moore's approach and figures (letter, August 2), if you invest £200 in Premium Bonds your annual chances of winning the top monthly prize (after the initial three-month delay) will be the same as those achieved by buying a £1 lottery ticket each month. But after 15 months you'll still only get £200 back for your bonds.

Invest your £200 at a fraction over 6 per cent, and after 15 months you'll have had your 12 tickets plus change on top of your £200. And rates above 6 per cent will make the additional return permanent.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GREEN,
Rhyd yr Harding, Castle Morris,
Nr Haverfordwest, Dyfed.

Legal puff?

From the Executive Director of
the Association for Public Health

Sir, Can you persuade the authors of today's cartoon strip on the Law pages to take Dr James Le Fanu's advice in *Body and Mind* and give up smoking? Once again, their otherwise entertaining piece is wreathed in the fumes generated by a leading character.

Since very few barristers smoke in real life, it is difficult to understand why they are so frequently shown smoking in this strip. The tobacco industry has been known to pay film producers to include smoking in films — but surely even its long arm does not stretch as far as your legal pages?

Yours faithfully,
DONALD REID,
Executive Director,
Association for Public Health,
Hamilton House,
Mabledon Place, WC1.
August 2.

OBITUARIES

SENATOR HUGH SCOTT

Senator Hugh Scott, Republican minority leader of the Senate at the time of the Watergate scandal, died of cardiac arrest in Falls Church, Virginia, on July 21 aged 93. He was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia, on November 11, 1900.

MODERATION was the key to Hugh Scott's political career. Although a lifelong Republican, he stood well to the left of his party's point of balance and frequently broke ranks to vote in favour of civil rights and legislation to improve the lot of America's poor. It was thus something of a surprise when in 1969, after only 11 years in the Senate, he won a tight three-way race to become minority leader after the death of Senator Everett Dirksen.

The position brought him into close contact with President Richard Nixon, to whom he gave loyal support almost to the end. In March 1973, after the Senate approved the creation of a special investigating committee into the Watergate affair, Scott declared that "the White House has nothing to hide". A month later, when Nixon fired his closest advisers, Scott applauded the action as proof that the President was "determined to see this affair thoroughly cleaned up". In July, he predicted that Nixon would soon "come out fighting".

Yet, once their existence was known, Scott constantly urged Nixon to make full disclosure of the taped conversations in the Oval Office, convinced that they would clear the President of all wrongdoing. Nixon's refusal to do so left Scott out on a political limb, and by November 1973 he was admitting extreme discomfort. "I've had a terribly difficult job," he said, "trying to strike a balance as a party leader; and at the same time trying to hold the confidence of people." He continued to affirm his belief in Nixon's innocence, but in March 1974 Scott warned the President that he would certainly be impeached if the White House tapes were not released.

On April 30, when Nixon finally gave over 1,200 pages of transcripts to the House Judiciary Committee, Scott broke ranks and withdrew his support from the President. The tapes, he said, revealed "deplorable, disgusting, shabby, immoral performances" on the part of everyone involved, including Nixon. Finally, on August 7, 1974, Scott went to the White House with Senator Barry



Goldwater and Representative John Rhodes, the House Republican minority leader, to tell Nixon that the game was up. Soundings in the Senate had shown that only a handful of senators were prepared to vote against his impeachment. "Mr. President, we are all very saddened," Scott said, "but we have to tell you the facts." Nixon resigned the next day.

Born on an estate that had once belonged to George Washington, Hugh Doggett Scott was descended from a Confederate officer who fought with the daring squadron known as "Morgan's Raiders" during the Civil War. It was an association that he used to endear himself to conservative Southerners once he went to Congress,

and it may well have attracted the vital votes needed in 1969 to gain the leadership. He trained as a lawyer, serving as assistant district attorney for Philadelphia from 1926 to 1940, when he was elected to the House of Representatives.

Scott was re-elected in 1942, but as a lieutenant in the United States Naval Reserve spent much of the Second World War alternating between various naval postings and his duties in Congress. In the summer of 1944 he and another congressman, Gordon Canfield, were authorised by the Speaker of the House to disguise themselves as crewmen and board a tanker bound for Normandy with a cargo of aviation fuel. The object was to

obtain information about the merchant marine for presentation to Congress and the War Shipping Administration.

Scott was not impressed by what he saw, later describing the condition of the shipping industry as "deplorable" and placing much of the blame on the unions. "This effort by maritime labour leaders to control the foreign policy of our country in opposition to the declared policy of the President and the State Department," he declared, "cannot and, in my opinion, will not be tolerated by the next Congress."

Elected to the House once again in 1946, Scott became an ardent supporter of Governor Thomas E. Dewey in his campaign for the presidency and was rewarded with the national chairmanship of the Republican Party. Having promised "one of the cleanest campaigns in history," however, his tenure did not survive Dewey's surprise 1948 defeat by Harry Truman.

In 1958, Scott moved to the Senate, where he represented Pennsylvania until his retirement in 1977. His liberal tendencies became increasingly evident, and in 1964 he helped to form the "stop Goldwater" movement, refusing to campaign for the Arizona Senator when the effort to thwart his nomination failed.

Unlike the majority of his party, he supported the civil rights measures of the Johnson Administration, and successfully opposed the attempt by President Nixon to abandon the 1965 Voting Rights Act. On Vietnam he tended to be ambivalent, supporting American military involvement under the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations, but becoming markedly more dovish after President Nixon took office.

A shadow was cast over Scott's career at the very end, when the Senate ethics committee launched an investigation into accusations that he had received \$45,000 from lobbyists representing the Gulf Oil Corporation. Scott, whose liberal reputation had been tarnished by his lengthy support of Nixon, had already announced that he would not be standing for re-election. He acknowledged the payment, but said it had been a legal campaign contribution and had not been kept for his personal use. By five votes to one, the committee decided to take no action.

Hugh Scott was widowed in 1957 after 63 years of marriage. He is survived by one daughter.

SIR REGINALD SHARPE

Sir Reginald Sharpe, QC, former Judge of the High Court in Rangoon and Chairman of the National Health Service Tribunal for England and Wales, 1949-71, died on August 2 aged 95. He was born on November 20, 1898.

REX SHARPE, as he liked to be known, was not destined either by temperament or circumstance to lead a humdrum existence. He was born in Richmond, Surrey, in an unusual house called The Pepperpot, and in a way that set the pattern of his life. He still, however, liked to refer to himself as one of the last of the Victorians.

The only child of Herbert and Florence Sharpe, Reginald Taffie Sharpe enjoyed a happy childhood from his father, who spent his entire career working for W H Smith, including a long period as Lord Hambleden's private secretary, he learnt the value of hard work. He inherited some of the musical talents of his mother who was also a mild artist.

In 1912 he went to Westminster School, where he was an active member of the debating society and devoted other of his energies to *The Trifler* magazine which, though briefly revived in the 1950s, has not survived. One of the things in his subsequent career which gave him the greatest pleasure was his long period as a member of the governing body of Westminster.

In July 1916, with the launching of the *Somme* offensive, his interest in amateur astronomy was put on one side as his thoughts turned to military training. Already destined for the law and Cambridge, he was gazetted a second lieutenant in the Grenadier Guards in January 1917 and served in France with the 2nd Battalion. After a year in the trenches he was wounded and sent back home.

He was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1920 and then had the good fortune to be taken into the Chambers at 4 King's Bench Walk of Serjeant Sullivan, the last of the Irish Serjeants who had defended Roger Casement, and Maurice Healey, a well-known wit and gourmet. He went on to practise on the South-Eastern Circuit.

Since the family had close Indian friends it was no surprise when in 1937 he accepted an appointment as a Judge of the High Court in Rangoon. But in 1942 things changed dramatically. The Japanese overran the Malay peninsula and reached Burma and, like so many others, Rex Sharpe was forced to leave and lost all his possessions.

As soon as he reached Calcutta he was involved in setting up the operation to drop supplies by air to those who were struggling to make their way from Burma on foot through the jungle to India. After this marathon task, he



Reginald Sharpe in court dress before departing for Rangoon in 1937

continued as Director of Supply (Burma) until 1944. In 1944 he returned to England and set out to househunt. With petrol rationing and a severe wartime shortage of houses, this was no easy task. He set off on a bicycle and found a house in East Sussex, which, after his postwar tour of duty in Rangoon, he was later to fill with furniture made from the Burmese teak of his packing cases.

In 1946 he returned to the High Court in Rangoon and in 1947 was made a knight. On his return to the United Kingdom after the independence of Burma in 1948 he was appointed a KC, becoming a QC at the start of the new reign.

A varied career in the law then followed: as HM Com-

missioner of Assize he served on various circuits and as sole commissioner conducted the British Honduras Inquiry at Belize in 1954. He was chairman of the National Health Service Tribunal from 1948 to 1971. He took up farming in 1948 and built up a well-known Jersey herd; at the same time his garden flourished and became noteworthy. In all this he was ably supported by his third wife, Vivien, whom he married in 1947. She died just before they would have celebrated their silver wedding.

He was a governor of Westminster School from 1953 to 1983. He was married four times and had two daughters, both from his first marriage, one of whom survives him.

MARINO IANDIORIO

Marino Iandiorio, founder of Napolina, died in Naples from the effects of a stroke on July 26 aged 64. He was born on October 27, 1929.

AS THE founder of Napolina, the Italian food company, Marino Iandiorio was one of the first of the postwar wave of Italians to make a mark on the business community in Britain. He was the archetypal Italian entrepreneur - small, determined and thick-skinned, with an infectious enthusiasm for the hurly-burly of marketing.

When he first started operating in England, he had problems convincing businessmen that, as an Italian, he was above board and would deliver the goods on time. For his part, he appreciated the way business in this country was done with a handshake, as was the case in Italy. His

philosophy, which was to supply English shoppers with the sort of quality demanded by their Italian counterparts, became a winning card even with wholesale distributors.

Marino Iandiorio was born in a small village near Avellino in the hills behind Naples. After a local education and university, he came to Britain in 1953 to study English. He returned to Italy to work as an export manager with Bevilacqua, an Italian canned-goods company.

In 1960 he came back to England to set up a British operation for them, but shortly afterwards the parent organisation was taken over. However, by this time Iandiorio was convinced of the potential market for Italian food products in Britain, and decided to stay on as an importer specialising in peeled plum tomatoes.

In 1967 he set up Naples Provision Cannery, renamed Napolina in 1970. By 1986 the company was holding 40 per cent of the canned tomato market in this country, as well as diversifying into a range of other lines as the British shopper became more adventurous.

He sold Napolina to CPC - the American food company which owned Hellmann's mayonnaise and Knorr brands - in 1987. Afterwards he established the Don Mario brand of Italian foods. He divided his time equally between London and Italy, where he had a house on the hillside overlooking his old village, and where his garden contained a hundred different species of trees.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters, each of whom is involved in the family business, and a son.

TERRY HIBBITT

Terry Hibbitt, footballer, died of cancer on August 4 aged 46. He was born on December 1, 1947.

ALTHOUGH he played football with distinction between 1965 and 1978, making more than 400 Football League appearances for Leeds United, Newcastle United and Birmingham City, Terry Hibbitt will perhaps best be remembered as the wily aide to Malcolm ("Supermac") Macdonald at Newcastle in the early 1970s.

Macdonald, a cult figure like the legendary "Wor Jackie" Milburn, scored the goals and captured the headlines, but the passionate Geordie supporters at St James's Park were almost as appreciative of the skills of Hibbitt, a midfield general and playmaker of the old school wearing the No 11 shirt.

The pair made their debuts on the same day, following

Hibbitt's £30,000 transfer from Leeds, and were both quickly taken to their hearts by the crowd as they established a masterly footballing rapport.

Hibbitt's accurate left foot and precision passing, allied to Macdonald's penchant for scoring, took the Magpies to the FA Cup Final for a record eleventh time in 1974. Macdonald scored in every round and the Macdonald-Hibbitt partnership was particularly impressive in the semi-final against Burnley. But the game against Liverpool at Wembley proved to be an anti-climax with Newcastle losing 3-0, their first-ever Final defeat. Hibbitt's performance was reduced by an injury that came when the match was goalless.

Terry Hibbitt went straight from school to join Leeds United in the Don Revie era, when Leeds were a power in the land. His misfortune was the playing riches that Revie

had at his disposal and, despite scoring with his first kick of his first senior match as a substitute away to Nottingham Forest in February 1966, he played no more than a bit part with 45 league appearances in five years.

Some consolation for being in the shadows of players of the calibre of Johnny Giles and Eddie Gray was that he helped Leeds to win the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup (now the UEFA Cup) in 1968.

His move to Newcastle in August 1971 elevated him from his reserve role. Hibbitt, slightly built and only 5ft 6in tall, blossomed at St James's Park and was talked about as a possible international. The call never came, though, for the Yorkshireman.

In August 1975 Hibbitt moved on to Birmingham City for £100,000 and, during Sir Alf Ramsey's brief tenure at St Andrews, was the demanding former England manager's captain. During his three years with the Blues he had an influence on Trevor Francis, later to become Britain's first £1 million footballer and an established England international.

Hibbitt was a captain again when he went to Newcastle for a second time in 1978 and again exerted an influence on their style and the development of the young Chris Waddle.

Knee problems forced him to retire from first-class football in 1981, but he made a brief comeback as player-coach with non-league Gateshead between May and October 1986 while working as a newspaper in Newcastle.

Hibbitt leaves a widow and two children. His brother Kenny, like Hibbitt a midfielder, played for Wolverhampton Wanderers. He is currently manager of Walsall.

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THE TIMES

TUESDAY AUGUST 9 1994



Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of BA, reported bigger profits and sounded out his disapproval of the state aid that Brussels has allowed for Air France

BA rallies rivals to fight French

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

BRITISH Airways is talking to other European airlines about joint legal action to block the clearance by Brussels last month of £2.4 billion in state aid to Air France.

"There is no justification for a subsidy of this size, and the conditions imposed are wholly inadequate," said Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of BA. But BA will await publication in English of the European Commission's written approval of the French aid, due next month, before beginning its action at the European Court in Strasbourg.

Lower fuel costs and an BA reported pre-tax profits of £88 million (£63 million) in the first quarter, although earnings remained becalmed at 6.9p a share after the rights issue last year.

The stock market responded by marking back BA shares, down 12p at 417p by the close, because the figures came in below some best estimates.

BA saw a 6.9 per cent rise in passengers on its scheduled services, while premium cabin passengers rose 12 per cent to record numbers. The airline's fuel and oil costs fell 5 per cent to £153 million.

Qantas accused, page 22
Tempus, page 25

Bank plans no autumn rate rise

By ANATOLE KALETSKY
ECONOMICS EDITOR

EDDIE George, the Governor of the Bank of England, has no plans to call for an increase in interest rates at his next monthly meeting with Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, on September 7. Yesterday, interest rates briefly jumped on the London money markets after a Belgian newspaper published an interview with Mr George in which the Governor "refused to rule out" a rise in interest rates in the next three months. But senior officials maintain that neither the Chancellor nor the Governor has any "game plan", laid out in advance, on interest rates in the autumn. They emphasise that any decisions taken at future monthly monetary meetings will depend on available economic information.

At their last meeting, on July 28, both the Chancellor and the Governor were apparently satisfied with the present monetary policy stance and Mr George gave no indication that he might revise his judgment in the absence of evi-

Although the Bank Governor has made it clear that he wants to pre-empt any possible pick-up in inflation, he is also understood to be concerned about damage to recovery

dence of worsening inflation prospects or unsustainable economic growth. Mr George has made it clear that he wants to pre-empt any pick-up in inflation by tightening policy in good time, but he is also understood to be concerned about damage to the Bank's credibility if a premature rate rise undermines a recovery that official economists still consider quite fragile.

Despite the absence of any signals of a policy change from the Bank or the Treasury, speculation in the City about an imminent rise in the 5.25 per cent base rate has remained at fever pitch. The further improvement in the short-term inflation outlook, described in the Bank's quarterly *Inflation Report* last week, and reinforced yesterday by the producer price figures, has been largely ignored. Instead, to the surprise

of Bank and Treasury officials, dealers have focused on the Bank's routine reminder that interest rates could not be kept at their present level indefinitely if inflation were to remain under control. The *Inflation Report* said only that a rate increase would be necessary some time in the next two years to keep inflation within the Government's 2.5 per cent target by 1997, and senior officials indicated that the first quarter of 1995 might be about the right time to consider such an adjustment. But most City dealers have continued to speculate on a big increase much sooner. At yesterday's closing prices, the futures market was pointing to a rise to 5.9 per cent by mid-September and to 6.6 per cent before Christmas.

Most City commentators are confident that recent tax increases will have no signifi-

cant impact on economic growth, but Bank and Treasury officials feel that the jury is still out on that. They believe that each month's statistics have to be sifted carefully for evidence before decisions on monetary policy are made.

Mr George is known to enjoy his public image as "Hard Eddie", the anti-inflationary zealot, and colleagues say that he would not hesitate to disagree publicly with the Chancellor if he felt the Treasury was taking inflationary risks. But the Governor is less happy about recent City comment which suggests that the Bank is engaged in a virility contest with the Treasury over who will be the first to call for higher interest rates.

In fact, both the Treasury and the Bank are determined not to be pushed into changing monetary policy by City speculation or volatility in market interest rates that they consider economically unjustified. The reason monetary policy remains on hold is that the economic evidence is still ambiguous on whether, or when, a tightening might be required.

Funeral group backs raised bid from SCI

By COLIN CAMPBELL

AMERICAN funeral group Service Corporation International last night surprisingly raised its takeover bid for Great Southern, the British funeral group, from 680p to 775p a share, or £112.9 million, — subject to Takeover Panel approval.

Great Southern is to recommend the offer, after fighting off SCI since the US group made its first, 600p-a-share, bid on June 21. At the weekend, Great Southern was in negotiations with the Canadian group Loewen.

SCI's revised bid has, however, sparked a controversy in which Baring's, Loewen's adviser, is pitted against Schroders, the merchant bank advising SCI, and in which the Takeover Panel has been accused of a volte-face.

It had been assumed, from an August 2 announcement made by Schroders on behalf of SCI, that the US group's then revised bid of 680p was

"an increased and final offer". SCI subsequently executed a dawn raid and picked up 21 per cent of its bid target, to give it an 39.9 per cent stake. A day later, SCI's formal document was issued: it included the words "these increased offers (680p for each ordinary share and 271p cash for each convertible) are final and will not be further increased, except in the highly unlikely event of a competitive situation arising".

Loewen, with which Great Southern has terminated talks, has lodged an appeal against SCI being allowed to make a fresh offer. The panel hearing will be at 10 am tomorrow.

SCI said last night that, in the event of its higher bid being allowed to proceed, it would compensate any shareholder who sold shares on Tuesday or Wednesday last week for the difference between 680p and its new bid.

Crackdown in City derails bad practices

By JON ASHWORTH

A CLERK who forged a British Rail season ticket has been banned by City regulators from working in the financial markets.

James Cesario has been barred by the Securities and Futures Authority on the ground that he is no longer fit to conduct investment business. Mr Cesario, a valuations clerk, borrowed a friend's season ticket, copied it, and used the forgery for months before he was caught.

Others to have been disciplined by the SFA in recent weeks include Simon Farquharson, who was dismissed from Credit Lyonnais Securities after accepting "gifts" of

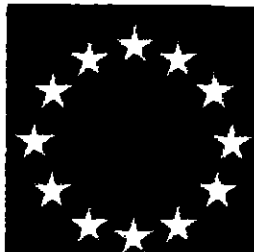
£30,000 from clients. He was fined £15,000 and paid £2,415 towards costs. Paul Yates, who worked at Salomon Brothers, entered fictitious trades on the firm's books and was fined £10,000. William Grant was fined £5,000 after misrepresenting positions to conceal trading losses at UBS.

Michael Harris, a former salesman on James Capel's Canadian desk, was reprimanded and ordered to pay £2,000 in costs for breaking the rules on conflicts of interest. Jolyon Money was fined £3,000 for submitting "materially inaccurate and misleading" details on his SFA membership application.

BUSINESS EDITOR
Lindsay Cook

BUSINESS
TODAY

BOUND



Anyone who thinks the EC Employment White Paper remained within reasonable bounds should note Michael Portillo's reaction
Page 25

BOUNCE

Saatchi & Saatchi says the world advertising market is set for a bounce after five flat years
Page 25, Tempus 25

BOUNTEOUS



A sharp fall in Opec output and continuing problems in Nigeria sent crude prices soaring
Page 22

REBOUND

The public offer for shares in Pillar Property Investments has been subscribed five times
Page 24, Tempus 25

Factory gate prices remain subdued

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

MANUFACTURERS are continuing to resist passing on higher import costs to their customers in the high street, suggesting that companies are still not confident enough about demand to rebuild their margins and that there is still little inflationary pressure emanating from industry.

The Central Statistical Office (CSO) reported yesterday that factory gate prices were unchanged last month compared with June and that the annual rate of output price inflation dropped to 1.9 per cent from 2.1 per cent. Talking

out food, drink and tobacco, which gives a better guide to the underlying trend, the annual rate of output price inflation edged back from 2 per cent in June to 1.9 per cent in July, its lowest rate since December, 1986.

These subdued output price numbers came in spite of a slightly higher than expected increase in import prices, the cost of raw materials. Seasonally adjusted input prices rose by 0.5 per cent in July, taking the annual unadjusted rate up to 2.9 per cent from 2.2 per cent in June.

On top of that, there was some disappointment that June's increase was revised upwards to a rise of 1.3 per

cent rather than the 0.8 per cent previously reported.

In last week's *Inflation Report*, the Bank of England expressed a sanguine view of rising commodity prices, but said that if rises were to continue at the rate seen in the second quarter, it would become more concerned that these would be passed on to end-customers.

Although output prices are likely to continue falling over the next few months, they will then start rising as higher raw materials costs finally feed through. The CSO reported that net new lending to consumers rose to £683 million in June from an unusually

subdued £208 million in May. A major reason for this apparent surge was £267 million of net lending on credit cards, the second largest monthly figure on record. However, gross lending was unchanged at £52 billion.

Infotank said yesterday that the threat of higher interest rates had hit demand for mortgages in June and the Finance & Leasing Association said that, while consumers were happy to use short-term credit on credit cards, they were reluctant to take on longer term credit commitments, such as personal loans.

Pennington, page 23

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MARKETS IN DETAIL, PAGE 26; SHARE PRICES PAGE 26

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Oil price rises on strike worries and output fall

RENEWED market concern over political strikes in Nigeria combined with news of a sharp fall in output by members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to push the oil price up sharply early yesterday.

On London's International Petroleum Exchange, the benchmark Brent blend crude contract for September surged to a session peak of \$18.36 a barrel before easing back.

On Friday, as traders became more relaxed about the impact of tension in Nigeria, the price fell back to close at \$17.86. At its peak last week, September Brent futures reached \$19.41, the highest for 15 months. Warabe Agamene, head of NUPENG, the blue-collar trade union for Nigerian oil-workers, yesterday gave no sign of any readiness to lessen his union's confrontation with the government. The crippling strike, which has been deliberately focused on oil companies, including Shell, began its sixth week yesterday. Mr Agamene said the strike would go on "as long as necessary".

The industrial action for the release of Moshood Abiola, the detained political leader widely believed to have won last year's annulled presidential elections, has cut an estimated 20 per cent off oil production in Nigeria, the world's fifth largest oil producer.

The authoritative Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said in its latest weekly newsletter yesterday that Opec production had last month averaged 24.69 million barrels a day, a drop of 330,000 from June. This helped to lift the average price for the Opec basket of crudes by 91 cents to \$17.41 a barrel. The Opec target reference price is \$21 a barrel.

Nigeria and Iran, which is having its own domestic political difficulties, were identified as the main causes of the fall in Opec output last month. Iranian production fell by 200,000 barrels a day last month from more than 3.7 million in June. Nigerian output was cut by an estimated 150,000 barrels to 1.78 million.

But MEES estimates that Nigeria's lost production has risen to about 500,000 barrels a day this month as strikes and political unrest took an increasing toll on the oil industry. The newsletter said the Nigerian turmoil was "far from over and may well get worse before it gets better".

The Russian oil and fuel ministry said yesterday that Russian crude output fell to 175.3 million tonnes in the first seven months this year, down from 203.2 million at the same point last year. Exports outside the former Soviet Union in the first seven months of the year were however 6.1 million tonnes higher at 53.8 million tonnes.

Oil traders yesterday said that the smaller Opec output and the expectation of higher demand in the Northern Hemisphere this autumn as economic recovery gathers pace suggested that the oil price should be well underpinned at the higher level now seen.

Woolwich predicts 3% rise in house prices

THE housing market is showing a "gradual, slow improvement" and house prices should rise by 3 per cent this year, the Woolwich Building Society said yesterday. The number of transactions is set to rise by up to 7 per cent, the society predicted.

Donald Kirkham, the group chief executive, said the improvements came "in spite of income tax rises, a reduction in mortgage interest tax relief and interest rate increases in fixed-rate mortgages".

Martin Ellis, the Woolwich's economist, said prospective borrowers are more confident that the economy is improving as they see unemployment falling and more homeowners coming out of the negative equity trap. At the same time, homes are still affordable and mortgage rates remain low.

Reflecting this cautious optimism, the Woolwich more than halved its provision for bad debts in the half year ending June 30, down to £30 million from £73 million. Mr Kirkham said: "This most welcome result reflects both the stabilisation of house prices and the success of our arrears management policies."

It was mainly the cut in bad debt provision that pushed the society's pre-tax profits up 51.4 per cent to £133 million in the first half of this year. This compares with pre-tax profits of £88 million in the same period last year. Operating profits before the charge for bad and doubtful debts were £163 million, an increase of just 1.5 per cent on the same period last year.

The large rise in pre-tax profits masks what has, in other respects, been a difficult first half.

Net investments from savers fell sharply, from £389 million to £22 million, as savers looked for a better return on their money, according to the society's interim figures. Mr Ellis said: "The first half of the year has been difficult for all societies. People have been investing in equities, unit trusts and National Savings. The Grannby bond has been doing very well."

Total mortgage lending fell from £1.6 billion to £1.3 billion, partly because upheaval in the money markets earlier in the year put up the cost of fixed-rate loans. Demand for fixed-rate loans has dropped off because of this but they still represent between 60 and 70 per cent of the Woolwich's new mortgage business.

Lower demand for mortgages has, however, meant that the society did not have to turn to the money markets to meet mortgage demand. Its borrowing from the money markets was almost unchanged at 22.5 per cent of total assets.

General reserves rose to £1.3 billion from £1.2 billion at the end of last year, while gross capital was up to £1.7 billion from £1.6 billion at the end of 1993.



Vic Jacob, chief executive, says there is rising demand for Trade Indemnity's services

Trade Indemnity sets aside extra £7.5m to cover claims

TRADE Indemnity Group, the credit insurer, has set aside a further £7.5 million to cover possible claims for compensation arising from inflated home income plans.

This follows a ruling by the Court of Appeal in June that is expected to result in claims from retired people who took out income plans on mortgage advice given by failed independent financial advisers.

Trade Indemnity issued a policy to the Investors Compensation Scheme to cover payouts for member firms that crashed between April 1, 1990, and March 31, 1992.

Yesterday, Trade Indemnity said that the number of business failures fell sharply in the six months to June 30, resulting in fewer claims. Some 42 per cent fewer failures were reported by its customers, with claims down 42.6 per cent to £29.5 million.

Trade Indemnity covers companies for the failure of their customers or suppliers to honour credit agreements. It attributed the fall in payouts to the recovery and good risk management by the company.

Gross premium income rose 4.3 per cent to £74.4 million.

Vic Jacob, chief executive, said that demand for Trade Indemnity's services, normally subdued as the economy emerges from recession, was increasing. Stung by the severe bad debt problems in recent years, more companies were paying attention to credit management to grow their businesses prudently, Trade Indemnity said.

An interim dividend of 0.4p per share will be paid to shareholders, who received nothing last time.

Exchange takes a strategist on board

By Robert Miller

THE London Stock Exchange went some way yesterday to addressing fears that it is losing ground to overseas stock markets with the appointment of Fields Wicker-Muirin to the newly created post of director of strategy and finance. She will start work on September 19.

Mrs Wicker-Muirin, 36, was headhunted from her current post as partner and vice president at Mercer Management Consulting and Strategic Planning Associates. Her appointment is seen in the City as a move by the Stock Exchange to address increasing concern among its members, users of the exchange, and the Government, at the prospect of London losing its position as a leading international stock exchange. One market insider said: "We probably have one of the worst stock exchange settlement systems in Europe now. We have to improve the level and quality of our overall service if we hope to remain as a major market where people want to trade shares."

Mrs Wicker-Muirin, who studied at the University of Virginia, the John Hopkins Advanced International Studies and the Institute d'Etudes Politiques in Paris, said that her role would include working on the Bank of England's proposed Gees, paperless settlement system due to start in 1996.

She added: "I am very determined to see the Stock Exchange do a good job for London. The idea is to work as a team at executive level, and it is important that the domestic markets work with the Bank of England in developing Crest. I shall be reporting directly to Michael Lawrence, the chief executive of the Exchange."

Mrs Wicker-Muirin said she intends to forge closer links with other stock exchanges. "I want to look at ways of how we might work more closely with European exchanges in particular. In the past we have been traditional competitors."

Mr Lawrence, said "I was very keen to have a strategist on the board. Fields Wicker-Muirin brings with her an international perspective which will be invaluable in enhancing further the Exchange's strong global position. Her analytical ability and achievements in the area of business strategy will be particularly relevant to her role at the Exchange."

Eastman Kodak close to \$2bn disposal

EASTMAN Kodak is believed to be close to agreeing the sale of its household products business for up to \$2 billion, according to reports in New York. Potential buyers could include Colgate-Palmolive, Unilever or Reckitt & Colman. The sale would be in line with Kodak's announcement in May that it wanted to shed all its non-photographic operations to concentrate on its core business. It sold part of the pharmaceutical part of its drug operation, Sterling Winthrop, to a subsidiary of ELF-Aquitaine, the French group, in June for \$1.68 billion. The rest of the drug operation, which includes the Bayer aspirin label, is expected to fetch \$2 billion, the Wall Street Journal said.

Kodak is also expected to pay \$150 million for Actavis Group's 50 per cent interest in Qualitest, a pharmaceutical venture the two companies jointly own. It is believed the transaction would involve assuming the entire \$218 million debt of Qualitest, which is held by Actavis.

East German 'boom'

THE eastern German economy is growing at a higher rate than predicted, Günter Rexrodt, the economics minister, said yesterday. "The boom in the east is no longer a political goal, it has become reality," said Herr Rexrodt, claiming the formerly Communist region is showing the best economic growth in Europe. Early this year, German government economists predicted growth in gross domestic product in eastern Germany of between 6 and 8 per cent, about the same growth rate as in the previous two years. Yesterday Herr Rexrodt said growth would be better than predicted, but said he would not reveal the figure until next week.

Swedish lender floats

BRITISH and American investors will have a chance to buy into Stadshypotek, Sweden's largest mortgage lender, after its 750,000 borrowers have submitted their subscriptions for a 3 billion kronor (£252 million) new share issue on favourable terms. Lars Wohlin, managing director, in London to present his company to the City, said he expected a sizeable portion of the issue to be left for London and New York. Swedish borrowers would also be free to sell their shares. Issue terms will be set next month, with subscriptions invited in October and listing in Stockholm in November.

Nextel \$2.4bn deal

NEXTEL Communications, the wireless communications group, is to acquire Dial Page, one of America's largest mobile radio operators, from Motorola for \$2.4 billion in shares. Nextel is constructing a network that would allow it to compete with the main cellphone companies. The company hopes to secure an alliance with MCI, America's second largest long distance phone company, with MCI offering to invest \$1.3 billion to help fund plans to build 4,000 radio transmission sites across America by the end of 1996. Nextel will buy \$750 million of equipment from Motorola.

Stake taken in Acatos

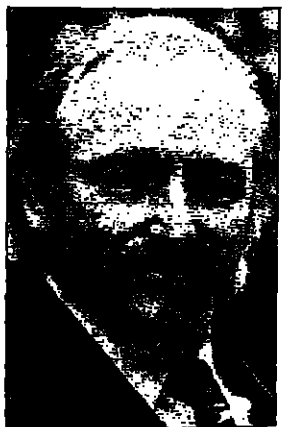
ACATOS & Hutcheson, the edible oils and fats company, said an unnamed international supplier had taken a 22.5 per cent stake in the group. "The two companies intend to co-operate in various areas of business of mutual interest and advantage," the company said. It added that it will make a "further announcement as early as possible". Acatos shares rose 19p to 335p. In May, the company announced a rise in pre-tax profits to £5.6 million from £5.1 million in the six months to April 3. Meanwhile, Acatos Ltd, a private company that owns 31.7 per cent of the group, has been reorganised.

Shake-up at Flagstone

FLAGSTONE, the loss-making leisure park owner, announced a boardroom shake-up after Kevin Leach, the new chairman, bought a 20 per cent stake from David Kirch, the company's controlling investor. Mr Leach, who spent £22 million buying the shares, now has a 21.5 per cent stake. Kenneth Lawson, the non-executive chairman who represented Mr Kirch on the board, is resigning along with John Harding, managing director, and Andrew Duquemin, a director. Flagstone recently revealed a 1993 loss of £424,000 following a deficit of £730,000 in 1992.

TWC backs Emap bid

TRANS World Communications, the radio group, grudgingly recommended acceptance of a £71 million takeover by Emap, the magazine and local newspaper group. The decision comes after a High Court ruling which allowed Emap to circumvent restrictions on the number of licences it may hold. The group said it had little option because Owen Oyston, right, the millionaire businessman, had agreed to sell his 22 per cent stake to Emap, giving it a 51.7 per cent stake.



Sales boost for Inspec

INSPEC, the chemicals group, painted a bright picture of prospects in its first trading statement since joining the stock market five months ago. Strong sales increases have been showing through after a combination of "continued growth in the UK and beginnings of sustained recovery in continental Europe". Excess manufacturing capacity has been reduced. In the six months to June, Inspec was boosted by the acquisition of Allico in America, and saw taxable profits grow to £5.9 million against £2.9 million. Inspec's first dividend payment is 1.33p on earnings of 5.5p.

Qantas flies into anti-cartel dispute

By Colin Narbrough

THE Australian anti-cartel watchdog is investigating claims by Australia Air International that Qantas, the national carrier in which British Airways has a 25 per cent stake, put pressure on County NatWest, Australia Air's lead underwriter, to pull a crucial A\$32 million (£15 million) stock market flotation.

Australia Air accuses Qantas of abusing its dominant position in the market, effectively to prevent its rival from opening an important route to China. Lyndon Cooper, director of international relations at Qantas, said yesterday that his airline denied the claims.

The Trade Practices Commission, said that Australia Air had written to it about its claims and that initial investigations were being carried out before a decision was reached on a full inquiry. Colin Hendrick, managing director of Australia Air, said that the new carrier, had "through pressure being applied in the



market by Qantas been severely hurt in its endeavours to obtain funds so as to start operations". Australia Air secured a weekly Sydney-Guangzhou-Peking flight last year, but had to raise A\$55 million for the service. The approval called for the route to open by July 11. Unable to raise the money by that date after its flotation was pulled, the airline has applied to the International Air Services Commission to extend the deadline.

Mr Hendrick said Australia Air did not believe that it was in the public interest to allow a large company, and one that shares a duopoly, to use such a dominant position to restrict competition. He claimed that pressure was brought by Qantas on County over the planned flotation. County said institutional interest was inadequate. Australia Air had secured commitments for up to 40 per cent of the investment required for the China route from investors in Asia.

The remaining 75 per cent of Qantas earmarked for privatisation next year and the investment banks have been trying to underwrite the A\$2 billion disposal. Qantas relinquished its rights to fly the China route in 1997, but rapid economic growth in China has generated greater demand on flights to there.

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□ Takeover Panel under siege □ Progress on directors' contracts □ Inflation will stay low

A funeral for SCI or Loewen?

AT 8.20am yesterday, the shares of Great Southern Group, the UK funeral enterprise, were temporarily buried. After market hours, trading was effectively resurrected and, as of today, those that feel inclined can gamble on tomorrow's ruling by the Takeover Panel's appeals committee as to whether Service Corporation International's knock out bid of £112.9 million is valid.

When William Helligbrodt, chairman of SCI, blew into the UK he pronounced: "I have come here to buy." In the event, Helligbrodt has raised the ante for Great Southern from an initial 600p a share to 680p and now to 775p. This represents a premium of 300p over Great Southern's quote before the world's largest undertaker went hostile in June. JD Field & Sons, the private company chaired by Barry Field, Conservative MP for the Isle of Wight, has irrevocably accepted in respect of its 56 per cent stake. Unsurprisingly, in view of the fact that ICS's terms signal an exit p/e of 27.6.

But what of the counter bid from Loewen, SCI's Vancouver-based rival. Well may you ask. Loewen, advised by Barings, is not so much doing battle with SCI but rather with the Panel. Loewen's camp claims, with more than a little justification, that SCI, advised by Schroders,

has fallen foul of Rule 32.2, which lays down that a "final" offer can only cease to be binding, in the light of a competitive situation, if such a right is reserved when the offer is first announced. SCI's "increased and final cash offer", launched last Tuesday, did not reserve the right to revise.

Shortly after the revelation of its "final" terms, SCI acquired 16.5 per cent of Great Southern's equity and 57 per cent of the convertible stock. The following day, Great Southern let it be known that it was in talks with an unnamed party which "might or might not" lead to an offer. SCI's offer document appeared the same day which did reserve the right to revise "in the unlikely event of a competitive situation arising."

Despite the irrefutable fact that SCI's press release did not contain the crucial qualifications, the Panel is understood to have indicated that it believed SCI should be permitted to revise its terms if a competitive situation arose. But what constituted a "competitive situation"? Great Southern's announcement that

talks were on with a mystery party or a counter bid? The Panel, word has it, initially favoured the latter and, witness SCI's 775p grand slam, finally decided on the former.

SCI has attempted to smoothen the way by extending its terms to those who accepted its penultimate bid. This gesture is described as "voluntary" although SCI hardly has much choice. Loewen, which assumed SCI's final terms merely required topping up, is hardly enamoured with the Panel's interpretation of its own rule book and has everything to play for tomorrow.

Two cheers for two years

DIRECTORS' contracts are shrinking at British Aerospace. After the one-off five year fixed deal offered to John Cahill at the age of 62, contracts of new directors have come down from a rolling three years to two. Even the existing three year rollers of the chief executive and finance director are, how shall we say,

PENNINGTON



under review. This is a welcome success for the pressure from Postel and a few other big institutional shareholders. BAE became a target after Mr Cahill walked off with \$4.7 million worth of share options after two years. In the event, however, he did not claim his generous contract dues, whose multifacetedness reflected the company's desperate need at the time. That aside, BAE is no different from many big groups in the terms of its directors.

The downside of responses like this, however, is that they might establish a new top executive norm for industry, and an excessive one at that. Postel's Alastair Ross Goobey reckoned rolling contracts should not be for

longer than twelve months. He set his campaign target at a maximum two years only because he thought that more likely to succeed.

Rolling contracts are merely built-in compensation. Directors who want to leave can do so in a matter of months, often a few days. For the company, there is no reason for the average director to be on a longer contract, or be due more generous compensation for loss of office, than any other key member of staff. Rolling contracts exist because the market in directors has established them as part of the usual package, along with the gold-plated health insurance, hugely expensive special pension arrangements and car with or without chauffeur.

If a company is to offer generous compensation, it should be more discriminating. For instance Dick Evans, BAE's chief executive, has been with the company most of his working life, has great achievements under his belt and is a known quantity. The company might want to reward him with generous job insurance. The same

might apply to a key engineer or experienced foreman. For the fast-travelling executive, good pay need be the only incentive.

All quiet at the factory gate

RAW materials prices are rising sharply but may not be quite the threat to inflation that some fear. A 5.5 per cent rise since January sounds dramatic. But the annual rise is only 2.9 per cent and, due to the intervening slump in commodity markets, input prices are still only 6.4 per cent higher than in January 1991.

The longer view may explain why the drive to raise output prices, recorded by the CBI and implied by the purchasing managers' survey, is still coming to naught. Manufacturers may want a mark-up to restore margins, but the commodity cycle is sufficiently removed from the domestic market to make realistic half-hearted.

That is good news. On the usual calculations, stationary factory gate prices in July mean there should not be any upsurge

in prices on the high street this year unless retailers get brave again. There is not much likelihood of that either. Retail sales are subdued, though falls in car sales ahead of the August registration season may not mean much.

Consumers do not seem to be taking on much more new credit either. Analysts are already puzzling over why credit card borrowers have suddenly started cutting their repayments. Is it growing consumer confidence or a response to temporarily emptied bank accounts?

The rail strikes will soon start being blamed for any untoward movements in consumer behaviour. So there should be no decisive change for a while to the existing snapshot of the economy: low inflation, modest growth, steady as she goes.

Nice try, possum

PROFESSOR Michael Buckley, introducing a tome on utilities, says new market entrants suffering abuse of a monopoly's power should get triple damages. But how do you prove it? An Australian David claims that the Goliath Qantas pressed County NatWest to pull its share issue. County pleads lack of institutional demand. But even when there are dirty tricks, you don't have to be big to play dirty.



Stephen Oakley, financial director, left, Shaun Dowling, and John Hunter, chief executive, the year-old management team

Smith & Nephew disposes of Ioptex

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

SMITH & Nephew, the healthcare group, is making an exit from the eye care market with the sale for £11 million of Ioptex, its loss-making American lens business.

Because of new accounting standards, the disposal will see S&N taking a £148 million exceptional loss through its profit and loss account when, on Thursday, it reports interim results for the six months ended July 2.

S&N acquired Ioptex in 1989 for \$236 million, equivalent to £126 million at the time, and in that year wrote off £141 million of goodwill through the balance sheet.

John Robinson, chief executive, said that the sale of Ioptex would modestly enhance earnings, because a current loss is replaced by interest earnings. The net effect on shareholders' funds is a reduction of £7 million to £469 million.

Ioptex reported sales of £27 million and profits of £200,000 in 1993. Net assets at the last balance sheet date were £18 million.

Shortly after the purchase of Ioptex, the American Government introduced price controls on intraocular lens products that cut deeply into margins.

Ioptex is being bought by the Allergan Corporation, of America, which is expected to transfer most of the 250 people employed. There are no job implications in Britain, S&N said.

Analysts have generally welcomed S&N's departure from the eye care market. The market is expected 1994 interim pre-tax profits of about £3 million, against £76 million in the comparable first half of 1993.

Charter stands firm over Esab

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

CHARTER, the British industrial group, is sticking to its £260 million recommended bid for Esab, of Sweden, in spite of Swedish protests that the offer is too low.

Esab, the world's leading welding equipment maker, yesterday reported a surge in half-year profits, after financial items, to Skr195 million (£16 million), from Skr23 million last time. The better than expected figures sent Esab shares up to Skr355, their highest price this year and Skr10 above the level of Charter's offer.

Swedish trade unions and some institutional shareholders in Esab have criticised the offer as grossly undervaluing the company.

A revolt by Swedish shareholders last year killed off the planned merger between the car and truck arms of Volvo

and Renault, the French state-controlled group, and led to Pehr Gyllenhammar quitting as head of Volvo.

Charter bought 49 per cent of the voting shares in Esab from Swedish incentive, part of the industrial empire of the Wallenberg family, in June. But it requires 90 per cent of the votes for the takeover.

A spokesman for Charter said that the company would wait and see the level of acceptance achieved by the deadline on Friday. "What has happened today changes absolutely nothing in the terms of the bid," he said.

Esab attributed the surge in profits to a sharp improvement in earnings in Europe, despite unchanged sales volumes, and to better sales outside Europe. It forecast a second-half profit similar in size to that of the first half.

Confident Saatchi sees advertising on the rebound

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE world advertising market is set to bounce after five years of flat revenues, Saatchi & Saatchi claims. The company denies signs that clients are keen to increase spending.

Optimism from Maurice Saatchi, the chairman, and encouraging interim figures showing further profits growth were sufficient to propel the Saatchi share price 15p forward to 176p.

Profit before tax jumped by £6.2 million, or 68 per cent, to £15.3 million in the half year to June 30. The figures were helped by a £3.2 million fall in interest payments after last year's rights issue. Operating profits were £21.7 million, against £18.9 million on a comparable basis.

Earnings rose by 1p, to 2.9p a share. But Saatchi is again paying no dividend. Mr Saatchi said payments would be resumed, at the earliest, once the company had seen the full year's results and assessed prospects for 1995.

Early this year, there was an extremely public rift between the chairman and his chief executive, Charles Scott. But both men insist that the rift has been healed. The relationship was "magnificent", said Mr Saatchi. Mr Scott joked: "I have worse arguments with my wife than I have with

Maurice — and I've only been married four weeks." Mr Saatchi said there were indications that clients were raising spending on advertising. First-half revenues from continuing operations were actually more than £20 million lower, at £379 million. But £3.7 million of the fall came from changes in exchange rates and £17 million from the loss of two big clients, Chrysler and Helene Curtis. During the half year, another big account was lost, but five others gained, including Qantas, the Australian airline, and the National Lottery.

"Revenue in the second half is expected to be similar to that achieved in the first, and

operating margins are expected to be a little better," Mr Saatchi said. But any resulting operating profits rise would be partly offset by higher interest payments as average debt levels rose. The second half would also see payments for surplus property of about £10 million and other one-off costs, assessed by City analysts at about £50 million, from payments to settle US tax audits covering previous years.

While these items will push up debt, they have been provided for in previous financial years and will have no effect on profits, Saatchi says.

Tempus, page 25



Maurice Saatchi, centre, with Scott and Wendy Smyth

Hartstone investors back rights

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

SHAREHOLDERS threw Hartstone Group a lifeline yesterday by voting unanimously to approve a £30 million rights issue.

Hartstone, a leather goods to hosiery group, launched its deeply discounted two-for-one rights issue at 15p a share last month to shore up its battered balance sheet, repay creditors and provide working capital. Without the cash, approved at an extraordinary meeting, the group would have breached lending agreements signed in March after talks with a consortium of 23 lending banks. The group, which had net borrowings of £62.6 million at the end of March, has to repay its principal creditors a minimum of £15 million by October 1, as part of its refinancing deal, or breach loan agreements.

Hefty write-downs last month sent shareholders' funds plunging and gearing soared to 310 per cent, putting Hartstone in breach of its articles of association on borrowing ratios. Gearing is effectively reduced to about 64 per cent as a result of the rights.

Shaun Dowling, chairman, said yesterday: "We've now got an opportunity to get down and actually manage the business. The main business continues to do well. There is some tidying to do in the UK, but that should be completed by the year end."

The shares were unchanged at 19p, compared with a price of 32p the day before the rights issue was announced.

RTZ nears deal on \$625m gold project

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

SIR Derek Birkin, chairman of RTZ, in what is seen as a significant breakthrough in protracted, and often fractious, negotiations to develop the Lihir gold project in Papua New Guinea, may visit Port Moresby for talks with government officials this month.

PNG officials and RTZ are understood to have all but agreed on how to finance a \$625 million gold project that is fabulously rich and which is especially challenging.

Lihir lies within the crater of an extinct

volcano where, in certain places, rock temperatures exceed 100 degrees centigrade. However, Lihir contains at least 13.4 million ounces of gold which makes it one of the largest undeveloped gold resources in the world and one which the PNG government, for the benefit of its economy, wants developed. In the past, RTZ has been accused of "dragging its heels" over Lihir, though RTZ's attitude has always been that it will not be rushed or pushed into any mining development that does not best suit RTZ shareholders. The original ownership of Lihir was RTZ 30 per cent and Nugini Mining, of

which Geoff Loudon is chairman, 20 per cent. The PNG government has subsequently claimed a right to take up an equity stake in Lihir.

The eventual shareholding ahead of an international public float of Lihir Gold is likely to be PNG government (40 per cent), RTZ and Nugini 30 per cent each.

The Forgera gold mine, in which Hanson has an indirect stake, and where production was halted last week in the wake of an explosion that killed 11 miners, is expected to resume mining operations today. An estimated 10,000 ounces of gold has been lost during the shut-down.

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Brussels beats a tactical retreat on social policy

The apparent modesty of the EU's latest plans is deceptive. They offer plenty of scope for future discord, explains Wolfgang Münchau

Judging from some of the reactions to the European Commission's White Paper on employment, one might conclude that the commission had almost given up on social policy. The document is markedly short on concrete legislative proposals, and it emphasises to a great extent the need to consolidate existing legislation.

But supporters and opponents of greater European involvement in social policy should not be fooled by the paper's ostensible lack of ambition. A close reading reveals that the commission keeps a few trump cards up its sleeve on further harmonisation of European social practices, for use at a more auspicious time in the economic cycle. The markedly sceptical reaction from Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, should give pause for thought to anybody who thinks the White Paper has not gone far enough.

Mr Portillo said that the last thing Europe's unemployed need is another programme of job regulation, which will add to employers' costs, destroy jobs and restrict opportunities for people who are looking for work. He maintained that what mattered for European social policy was not the White Paper itself, but the flow of directives that might emanate from it at some time in the future.

Between now and then, the game remains open. The tone and strategy have changed, however. After the hiatus caused by the social action plan of the early 1990s, designed as the social policy corollary of the single market, we are in for a period of strategic reappraisal. Also notable is an absence of pettiness. There is no proposal of the type that sought to ban 14-year-olds from delivering newspapers, on the ground that the practice amounted to child slavery.

In an interview with *The Times*, Padraig Flynn, the Irish competition commissioner, justified the new modesty, saying that "after all the consultations I had in my tour of capitals and in the consultative process that has been undertaken on the Green Paper (on employment), I certainly did not detect a demand for more social legislation at this particular point in time."

What the White Paper does is to set out new areas where action by the European Union is likely during the period between 1995 and 1999, without drawing up detailed legislative proposals at this stage. The first concrete proposals will come at the Essen EU summit in December. It will take the form of a short-term action plan focusing on improving the efficiency of systems of employment and on specific measures to fully exploit the employment potential of small and medium-sized companies.

The emphasis on job creation is in part an attempt to coax Mr Portillo into a more positive negotiating stance, and specifically into dropping the opt-out. Judging from his initial comments, this may not have worked, though Mr Portillo has been careful not to box himself into a corner during his first week in office. But he did emphasise that the British opt-out was there to stay. It has been applied once so far, to the proposal to create European works councils for multinational companies, and there may be less than a handful of firms to which it might apply in the future. In practice, the opt-out will not



Padraig Flynn, left, the competition commissioner, could run into opposition from Michael Portillo

put Britain on a substantially different level of social policy than the other 11 member states.

"I have always said for some time that I would wish a single framework to deal with social policy to include the 12," Mr Flynn said. "I would wish this to be an opt-out in name only. I don't think there is anything in this White Paper that would seek to have this opt-out clause used." He added pointedly that the new era of consensus in social policy might lead to a situation where the matter may be considered in the 1996 review of the Maastricht Treaty. "I would hope that."

The commissioner was careful not to criticise Britain. He pointed out that Britain had an impeccable record on social policy, the highest of any of the 12, and that it had been a pioneer in the implementation of the new social policy. He was "not happy" with the performance of some other countries.

The new era of social policy is not merely about consolidation. For a document criticised as being short on concrete legislation, the White Paper nevertheless points towards a wide array of new areas of EU action. The most noticeable include plans for a framework directive aimed at reconciling professional and family life, which would include minimum standards on parental leave and career breaks.

In the pipeline for the next year are proposals to:

- Build a Europe-wide guarantee that no young persons can be unemployed under the age of 18; this would effectively require formal compulsory schooling or school-based training until that age;
- Eliminate basic illiteracy by 2000;
- Extend the scope of apprenticeship

systems; □ Examine ways of introducing tax incentives for firms and individuals to invest in their continuing training.

In the longer run, the scope will widen considerably. The commission's main emphasis will be to make a single European market for labour a reality. This may sound innocuous, but would require substantial changes in the way European governments run their social policy systems. There will be no harmonisation of social security systems, according to Mr Flynn, though the commission will still want to achieve convergence.

At present, the EU remains far removed from a single market for labour, and the right of free movement continues to be restricted. The White Paper says that "in reality, certain persons without resources are hindered from exercising these rights, in particular unemployed people without benefits, those who live on social benefits and certain disabled people, and gypsies, who encounter practical and administrative difficulties in residing in the member state of their choice."

Efforts by Britain to end "welfare holidays" by other EU nationals would probably run counter to any attempts by the commission to give meaning to the notion of free movement of people.

The White Paper is realistic enough to acknowledge the existing gulf in opinion between Britain and the other 11, outlining the continued lack of consensus over EU social policy. Mr Flynn left no doubt about his commitment to what is known in Brussels as the European model of social policy. "Social policy is an integral part [of economic policy]," he said. "There is

very considerable support for the maintenance of the European model. All the submissions we have received would recognise that as a cornerstone for European society."

The White Paper goes on to outline some of the objectives, on which the Union at some stage wants to agree on minimum standards. Many of these have the potential to run into British opposition. These are:

- Protection against individual dismissal;
- Minimum standards on data protection;
- Equal treatment of part-time and full-time workers;
- Prohibition of discrimination of workers who uphold their rights;
- The right to wages on public holidays and during illness;
- Minimum consultation rights on company matters.

This is by no means a modest list for Mr Portillo and his following of Eurosceptics to swallow. Mr Flynn said he "had not yet had the pleasure" of meeting Mr Portillo.

"I am more than hopeful that Mr Portillo and his colleagues would find that this White Paper reflects the mood of our times, which is what I found during the consultative process," he said. "This is a balanced document. This is what people want. They want job security, and they want protection. And they recognise that they have to pay for it. But I think they also want something else. They want an active and a vibrant social policy at the European level."

In the end, the White Paper amounts to a tactical retreat by Brussels, a redrawing of the battle lines, stemming from a recognition that there is not sufficient support at the moment for another thrust of EU social policy legislation. But the battle of ideas between the "Anglo-Saxon" and "European" models of social policy is far from resolved.

UK efforts to end 'welfare holidays' might run counter to the commission's goal of allowing free movement of people

THE TIMES CITY DIARY



Card playing in the lift

HEARD the one about the lift, the mobile phone and the Rolodex? Tim Trotter, head of Ludgate Communications, the PR firm, is playing down talk of an unseemly scuffle in a Manhattan lift. Two years ago, he set up a New York subsidiary with a former analyst called Ann McBride, but the pair fell out, setting the scene for a steamy confrontation. It came to the boil in June when Trotter flew to New York and told McBride they were to part company. As she was leaving the office, she allegedly grabbed a bulky Rolodex — a business card index system to you and me — and dashed out with a director in hot pursuit. At this point, the stories diverge rapidly. Trotter insists he behaved impeccably. "I rushed out and found them having a debate in the lift," he says. "I leaped against the lift door and stood there for 20 minutes very politely asking her to return the Rolodex." After consulting with her lawyer by mobile phone, McBride acquiesced — she says she handed it over. Trotter says she threw it on the ground. Whatever, he kept the

Rolodex, and the jilted McBride is now seeking \$1 million in compensation against an offer of \$30,000. Good luck to the arbitrators.

Daring Baring

BARING Brothers can be forgiven for the Freudian slip in their rather impetuous advertisement in yesterday's *Financial Times*. Given that Equifax, the firm's American client, has put a full 50p more per share on the table than Trans Union, its US arch rival, in its latest cash offer for UAPT-Infotlink, the British credit as-

essor, the investment bankers cannot understand why UAPT has so far failed to recommend it. But it looked somewhat impatient to call the bid "recommended" in yesterday's ad. Red faces all round.

Underdresses

NOTHING travels like bad news, as fashion wholesaler Susi Frith found out last week. Frith, joint managing director of Frith Dimond, recently picked up the contract to distribute Debbie Moore's Pineapple range of dance and leisurewear worldwide. She was

putting together a collection of designs for an impending trade fair when a delivery man, finding that nobody was in, left half the collection in a pile of boxes under a truck outside her East Sussex showroom. Needless to say, the goods promptly went missing. A furious Frith, needing the new materials in double-quick time, rang a rival delivery firm, to be told: "Ah, you must be the lady who had her delivery left under the lorry." Matters did not improve when the police advised her to pop round to see if the goods had been handed in as lost property.

Kleinwort's man

KLEINWORT Benson has persuaded Ian Harwood to sign up after a solid 17 years at SG Warburg Securities. Harwood, who has held a number of senior posts at Warburg, including that of chief economist and, most recently, head of global asset allocation, joins KB's strategy and economics department next month as international economist. He will market international economics products to senior fund managers alongside Albert Edwards, who remains in charge of global strategy re-

search. In another important signing, Panmure Gordon has taken on Nigel Davies from Robert Fleming as head of research. The firm has also poached two smaller companies specialists from Granville Davies — Karine Luckraft and Patrick Orr — and rounded it off by hiring Francesca Raleigh from Credit Lyonnais Laing as paper and packaging analyst.

Pressing ahead

I am obliged to the transport department for writing to inform me that it now has 14 press officers on the payroll — surely a record, even by civil service standards. It notes, in the same breath, that Dr Brian Mawhinney has been appointed secretary of state. Call it retheking problems if you will, but the letters arrived on August 5 — a clear 16 days after the good doctor was appointed.

EASY to spot Wayne Channon, youthful chairman of Perso, the computing group, these days. He has just taken delivery of a new M-reg Range Rover bearing the registration: MIWAY.

JON ASHWORTH

TEMPUS

Through a porthole, darkly

SEEING through British Airways' labyrinthine cost structure is almost as difficult as finding the cheapest fare to New York. To the great delight of BA shareholders, however, the airline's costs seem to fall year-on-year and fares, even in this cut-throat industry, occasionally rise.

BA is making more out of less. The capacity increases that beset the airline industry through the recession are tailing off and volume is picking up. BA achieved a 6.9 per cent rise in passenger traffic but, more important, the growth was almost double that for high-rolling passengers, reflecting the resurgence in business travel.

As business takes off, BA is making better use of its aircraft, cancelling orders for four planes and terminating the leases on two Boeing 747-400s. The combined effect of better

load factors and lower costs has pushed up the yield on scheduled services by 3.4 per cent.

The company has taken out \$560 million over five years, an embarrassment to the rest of the airline industry in Europe, which depends on a drip-feed from the taxpayer. Its global alliance aims to reduce costs further and the company predicts a net saving of £150 million this year. But its partners are years behind in the efficiency stakes and USair, BA's American partner, is attempting a crash diet while in the casualty ward. BA could be forced to write off \$200 million if agreement with USair's employees does not produce \$500 million in savings. If BA could live on its own, the shares would be a raging buy, but long-term growth depends on the success of partnerships with airlines where BA is unable to crack the whip with the same force.

Saatchi

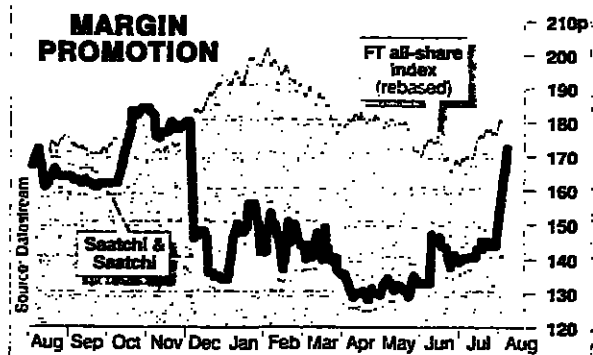
SAATCHI shareholders are clearly far-sighted because the share price would seem to be looking a good few years ahead from these days of slow recovery for advertising in general from what Saatchi calls "the despondent 1990s".

Maurice Saatchi's attendance at briefings for City and press yesterday, after some years of absence and in the wake of his bitter row with Charles Scott, was designed to make a point.

The two men are protesting peace, harmony and buried hatchets, and there is no doubt that Mr Saatchi has performed by bringing in the clients. Meanwhile, Mr Scott has been pruning the budgets, a job that he concedes is now largely over even if there are still too many executives on high salaries not based on performance targets.

Progress from now will be based on increased revenues, whether from existing clients who will be spending proportionately more of their marketing budgets on media advertising than on trade promotions and deals, as Mr Saatchi believes, or from new accounts. Saatchi is sticking to its 10 per cent margins target for 1996, and

for the first half these lifted significantly from 5.3 to 5.7 per cent. For this year, with £30 million pre-tax in prospect, the shares sell on more than 30 times' earnings. For 1995, with margins of 7 to 8 per cent achievable along with profits of £48 million, that multiple halves. Even so, this suggests little to chase for now.



Pillar

IF PILLAR Property soars to a premium next week it will add yet more bubbles to a sector that is becoming distinctly frothy. That is no criticism of Pillar itself, which can at least boast a portfolio with some growth potential. The company has only one over-rented property out of 26 and no skeletons in its portfolio to hold back expansion plans.

The problem lies rather with leading property shares that it would increase its bid for ESAB, the Swedish welding equipment maker, but the latter's results out yesterday suggest that the British company is getting something of a bargain. Earnings were well ahead of expectations and the company has raised its forecast for the year by a third as the company's recovery gathers pace.

Warnings from ESAB's unions last month that Charter's offer undervalued the company now seem curiously well-informed and raise questions about the management's enthusiasm for Charter's SKR345 (£28.50) per share offer, now SKR10 below

of rents rising yet and when they do the rate of growth is unlikely to exceed inflation by more than a point. With dearer money likely to keep a damper on property yields for some time, the sector is scarcely due for a re-rating. On those grounds, investors should be selling the property leaders, rather than bidding up Pillar.

Charter/ESAB

CHARTER was quick to strike down any suggestions that it would increase its bid for ESAB, the Swedish welding equipment maker, but the latter's results out yesterday suggest that the British company is getting something of a bargain. Earnings were well ahead of expectations and the company has raised its forecast for the year by a third as the company's recovery gathers pace.

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Stadshypotek

STADSHYPOTEK, Sweden's largest mortgage lender, is wooing British investors to pick up the bones of its SKR3 billion (£252 million) share issue: this autumn, after its 750,000 loyal Swedish borrowers have paid first bite. The venerable company, demutualising ahead of a November listing in Stockholm, has come through Sweden's recent banking and property collapse relatively unscathed (without a krona in help from government), is back in profit, has falling loan losses and a rising Swedish economy. Lars Wolhlin, the managing director, is prudently determined to keep to mortgages rather than emulate Abbey National. It looks as safe as houses.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Lloyd's tougher stance and the pursuit of bad debts

From Mr Andrew Grossman
Sir, Lloyd's "tougher stance" (Lloyd's takes on NatWest debt chaser), August 5) represents no new threat to names since they are seeking Mareva injunctions, which would probably prove fruitless and counterproductive. Lloyd's cannot begin to collect its "bad debts" until it has established them in court, and it can make no progress on new claims until the original test cases brought in 1992 have been concluded. Thus, the appointment of a "bad debt specialist" can only be seen as an element of psychological warfare.

One major problem Lloyd's faces is that many threatened names who still have assets have tied them up in such a way as to require Lloyd's to pursue them in American courts, for example by moving to Florida and other places in the United States where unlimited homestead, pension and insurance exemptions exist in bankruptcy and in judgment collection proceedings. Furthermore, in most American courts defendants would have the right to assert counterclaims (up to the amount of Lloyd's claim) without respect to time bars and notwithstanding Lloyd's immunity from suit under the Lloyd's Act 1982.

Some names have set up asset protection trusts in the Cook Islands or the Caribbean; but a danger to English (but not necessarily Scottish) names who remain in Britain is that the Insolvency Act 1986 makes transfer of assets within five years of bankruptcy an offence and voidable if done prior to engaging in risky business. Many English solicitors fear being held accountable civilly and criminally for any advice they may give in this area.

Of course, the real issue here is Lloyd's solvency. Lloyd's faces the basic dilemma that if it sues, to the extent claims against names prove uncollectible then "means" it now asserts as backing for policies will have to be written off. If the DTI certifies Lloyd's solvency this year and Lloyd's is later shown to have been insolvent, then based on the EU Insurance Accounts Directive (91/674/EEC) in force from January 1, 1994, and the 1991 *Francovich* decision of the European Court of Justice, the British Government might well be liable for any ensuing losses suffered by both names and policyholders.

Sincerely,
ANDREW GROSSMAN,
2 Fountain Lane,
Scarsdale, NY 10583.

DTI inquiry needed

From P. U. A. H. Browne
Sir, Now, as Lloyd's is "Calling in the rotters" (August 5), is an appropriate moment to remind everyone that the so-called "old-year losses" are not really losses in the ordinary sense at all. They are not trading losses incurred while names were underwriting, but cash calls made on names to boost reserves against some very bad underwriting in the Fifties and Sixties in the USA.

The marketing of these umbrella policies in the US is well documented in Randolph Fields's essay *The Underwriting of Unlimited Risk: The London Market Umbrella Liability Policy 1950 to 1970*. What Mr Fields shows is that there were many professionals in the London market who knew at the time that this was reckless underwriting (quite as reckless as Mr Outhwaite's in 1982 when he took over the old-year liabilities of many of the syndicates which originally underwrote the umbrella

policies). Some underwriters refused to write these unlimited policies, while others, possibly against their better judgment, continued to do so after an attempt in 1960 to introduce some limits met with an unfavourable response from the US customers.

At the time, there was virtually no reserving against these policies (and the syndicates declared good profits) and subsequent reserving was always half-hearted and inadequate, so as not to discourage new names from joining the syndicates. Because there were no overall aggregate limits on these policies and because of the huge number of people who could claim against them for damages in respect of asbestosis and pollution, there was bound to come a time when even the most brazen underwriters would have to declare that they could not quantify the probable maximum losses on these syndicates. Newco will have the same problem for many years to come as claims keep rolling in at the rate of 2,000 per month, averaging, say, \$100,000 at least.

The only way to obtain a fair and authoritative account of the development of this financial disaster is to have a DTI inquiry: the PCW affair resulted in a DTI inquiry — and the losses there were far smaller.

Legal action by Lloyd's against individual names is quite unfair and inappropriate. The members and employees of Lloyd's currently turning the screws on names may have clean hands, but those who underwrote and under-reserved in the past (now protected by the Statute of Limitations) did not. Yours etc,
PATRICK BROWNE,
The Bury, Foxton,
Cambridgeshire.



TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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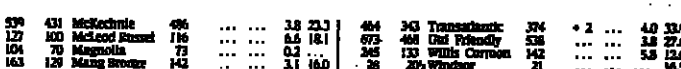
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87	64	Wong Sang	64	87	2.8
88	64	Wong Sang	64	88	2.8
89	64	Wong Sang	64	89	2.8
90	64	Wong Sang	64	90	2.8
91	64	Wong Sang	64	91	2.8
92	64	Wong Sang	64	92	2.8
93	64	Wong Sang	64	93	2.8
94	64	Wong Sang	64	94	2.8
95	64	Wong Sang	64	95	2.8
96	64	Wong Sang	64	96	2.8
97	64	Wong Sang	64	97	2.8
98	64	Wong Sang	64	98	2.8
99	64	Wong Sang	64	99	2.8
100	64	Wong Sang	64	100	2.8

[illegible]

174	Canada	152	1	25	2.5
175	France	152	1	25	2.5
176	Spain	74	1	13	1.3
177	Germany	74	1	13	1.3
178	Italy	74	1	13	1.3
179	U.K.	74	1	13	1.3
222	U.S. Coast	146	2	26	2.6
223	U.S. Gulf	146	2	26	2.6
224	U.S. Pacific	146	2	26	2.6
225	U.S. Atlantic	146	2	26	2.6
226	U.S. Caribbean	146	2	26	2.6
227	U.S. Mexico	146	2	26	2.6
228	U.S. Central	146	2	26	2.6
229	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
230	U.S. West	146	2	26	2.6
231	U.S. East	146	2	26	2.6
232	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
233	U.S. North	146	2	26	2.6
234	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
235	U.S. West	146	2	26	2.6
236	U.S. East	146	2	26	2.6
237	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
238	U.S. North	146	2	26	2.6
239	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
240	U.S. West	146	2	26	2.6
241	U.S. East	146	2	26	2.6
242	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
243	U.S. North	146	2	26	2.6
244	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
245	U.S. West	146	2	26	2.6
246	U.S. East	146	2	26	2.6
247	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
248	U.S. North	146	2	26	2.6
249	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
250	U.S. West	146	2	26	2.6
251	U.S. East	146	2	26	2.6
252	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
253	U.S. North	146	2	26	2.6
254	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
255	U.S. West	146	2	26	2.6
256	U.S. East	146	2	26	2.6
257	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
258	U.S. North	146	2	26	2.6
259	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
260	U.S. West	146	2	26	2.6
261	U.S. East	146	2	26	2.6
262	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
263	U.S. North	146	2	26	2.6
264	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
265	U.S. West	146	2	26	2.6
266	U.S. East	146	2	26	2.6
267	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
268	U.S. North	146	2	26	2.6
269	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
270	U.S. West	146	2	26	2.6
271	U.S. East	146	2	26	2.6
272	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
273	U.S. North	146	2	26	2.6
274	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
275	U.S. West	146	2	26	2.6
276	U.S. East	146	2	26	2.6
277	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
278	U.S. North	146	2	26	2.6
279	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
280	U.S. West	146	2	26	2.6
281	U.S. East	146	2	26	2.6
282	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
283	U.S. North	146	2	26	2.6
284	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
285	U.S. West	146	2	26	2.6
286	U.S. East	146	2	26	2.6
287	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
288	U.S. North	146	2	26	2.6
289	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
290	U.S. West	146	2	26	2.6
291	U.S. East	146	2	26	2.6
292	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
293	U.S. North	146	2	26	2.6
294	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
295	U.S. West	146	2	26	2.6
296	U.S. East	146	2	26	2.6
297	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
298	U.S. North	146	2	26	2.6
299	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
300	U.S. West	146	2	26	2.6
301	U.S. East	146	2	26	2.6
302	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
303	U.S. North	146	2	26	2.6
304	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
305	U.S. West	146	2	26	2.6
306	U.S. East	146	2	26	2.6
307	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
308	U.S. North	146	2	26	2.6
309	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
310	U.S. West	146	2	26	2.6
311	U.S. East	146	2	26	2.6
312	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
313	U.S. North	146	2	26	2.6
314	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
315	U.S. West	146	2	26	2.6
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317	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
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323	U.S. North	146	2	26	2.6
324	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
325	U.S. West	146	2	26	2.6
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327	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
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329	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
330	U.S. West	146	2	26	2.6
331	U.S. East	146	2	26	2.6
332	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
333	U.S. North	146	2	26	2.6
334	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
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342	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
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344	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
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372	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
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439	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
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449	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
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451	U.S. East	146	2	26	2.6
452	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
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454	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
455	U.S. West	146	2	26	2.6
456	U.S. East	146	2	26	2.6
457	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
458	U.S. North	146	2	26	2.6
459	U.S. South	146	2	26	2.6
460	U.S. West	146	2	26	2.6
461	U.S. East	146	2	26	2.6
462	U.S. Midwest	146	2	26	2.6
463	U.S. North	146	2	26	2.6

[illegible][illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS							
3059	1703	Alliance	1678	+ 3	...	3.1	...
3070	401	American & Canadian	3972	+ 3	...	3.1	...

589	548	Molten	567	...	...	1.6	14.6	239	113	Insulators	1929	+ 1	...	24	...
428	326	Morgan City	369	...	...	3.6	11.4	381	311	Building Triforce	337	1	...	24	...
217	176	Morris Ashby	267	+ 14	...	4.4	18.2	248	198	Henry Sand	230	...	2.2	12	...
51	34	Neerand	37	...	...	3.6	...	129	918	For Assets	98	...	...	54	...
80	43	Neur-NBA	43	- 2	...	4.2	9.7	46	89	Dr. Eugene Ser	94	...	...	1.2	...
									31	Dr. Moore	41				

35	29	Monks Gr	130	...	...	2.8	232	22	summer	246	1	...	2.7	...	
35	29	Monks Group	29	+	4	...	4.7	9.5	222	194	Cum Asset	207	+	4	...
64	68	OMI trail	94	+	...	...	...	...	147	Derby line	165	+	...	11.8	...
125	140	PCTA	165	...	...	7.2	5.3	...	378	246	<0 Cap	313	...	...	...
91	66	Phy Systems	81	-	1	...	5.8	29.4	100	73	Dugan Wire	82	...	...	...
46	31	Pharmacy	40	...	...	...	...	...	121	...	...	...	...	12.8	...

3719	148	Philo-soc	237	...	4.7	2.5	14.1	784	613	Danone Inc G	670	...	4.9	...
3720	162	Pillsbury	797	+	2	2.5	...	108	85	-do Japan	100	+	4	...
53	38	Planet & Cev	51	...	1.5	3.7	...	80	48	-do Warran	57	...	...	...
170	82	Plainsboro	101	+	2	4.2	11.9	341	262	Domestic Syst	713	+	1	16
1785	120	Polypipe	146	-	2	1.8	18.7	837	725	-do Wiede	795	+	1	1.5
34	50	Popper Chatham	74	...	...	...	...	260	...	-do	...	...	...	...

29	76	PWS Group mms	187	5.4	80.1				
77	96	PWS Group	61	4.9	12.6				
128	82	Radical Metal				127	105	Electric Gen	201
174	120	Radical Gen	165	0.1		127	105	English Gen	117
178	155	Radical Org	403	1		345	266	Electric Amer	323
187	155	Radical Org	403	1		172	145	Flampan 'A'	153
194	155	Radical Org	403	1		343	220	Flampan Amer	301
204	155	Radical Org	403	1		145			

[illegible]

73	38	Richard (Elex)	258	...	4.6	18.5	347	269,	-to	Merc	203	...	2.9	...
74	38	Richard (Elex)	57	...	4.9	40.8	349	269,	-to	Owens	302	...	4.2	1.7
75	38	Richardson West	87	...	4.6	17.6	155,	126,	Foreign & Col	142,	...	...	1.5	...
76	39	Robiner	138	...	6.8	13.9	148	104,	-to	Dang Mains	127	...	0.2	0.3
77	39	Boer Gp	157	...	3.2	...	77	64,	-to	Enterprise	69,	...	...	1.1

42	62 Mergel (W)	88	...	25	31.3	314	307	40 Pacific	340	...	0.8	...
43	64 S&P Inds	40	+	28	18.0	382	1994	40 Smaller	1781	...	1.4	...
44	100% S&P '87	1278	-	35	...	303	243	GT Japan	273	...	0.8	...
45	176 Scaps	216	+	-	3.4	184	...	...	...	...	1.4	...
46	168 Schell	171	...	...	...	...	109	Genl Cons Cap	185	+	2	...
47	164 Schell	...	...	...	4.7	13.9	239	40 Inc	1151	...	...	0.8

902	285	400-A	879	1	0	0	21.8	960	80	40-Global Smth 87	...	...	...
903	606	Security Serv	091	1	1	1	21.9	112	83	40-Floral Inc 01	...	...	7.0
904	891	Senior Eng	135	1	1	1	21.9	439	349	40-Orionat 396	...	...	0.3
905	448	Senior Mktg	348	2	2	2	17.7	346	239	Gowett Straps 262	...	...	1.2
906	138	Shiloh	151	...	...	...	2.9	475	410	Greenstar 417	...	...	1.0
907	267	Fidell	267	...	...	...	6.9						

79	139	Sheridan	206	...	4.0	11.8	90	92	Mid Atlantic	96
79	139	Sims Derby	179	+ .1	2.7	19.8	90	30	-do- Warrants	45
79	75	Simsen Eng	174	...	...	...	118	122	Ray Cap	138
79	146	Strickler/Wm	191	...	4.6	15.5	150	44	Ind US Army	110
79	70	Stx Empowered	70	...	2.7	...	177	126	DOWSCO News	144
79	134	Swartz & Smith	188	...	2.8	17.6	...	...	...	...

22.	322	Scotchman's Vrs	376	...	3.6	14.6	...	27.	37.	do Euro was	30.	...
23.	429	Scotchman Ltd	478	...	...	3.1	10.9	22.	23.	do Crown	24.	...
24	41	Sinhu Bldg	46	...	...	10.1	4.4	26	26	do Smir	27	...
25	185	Synodora	238	...	...	1.2	22.3	28	28	do Law Dechenberg	29	...
26	420	Spier (JW)	1130	...	...	2.1	19.2	22	22	do Magdalen	23	...
27	423	Spier, Wm	416	...	...	...	...	24	24	do	25	...

199	Secretary	249 T	..	47	85.5	45	29	do- Warrand	37	0	15	...	...	...
199	Seating Ind	257 T	0	1	3.3	21.3	125	98	do- World Map	110	...	...	...	...
180	Stater	200	...	...	5.8	17.2	5.2	35	do- World Map	110	...	...	...	...
448	Swire Pacific 'A'	580 T	- 0	...	1.8	...	2997	2350	Month Lynch	2357	-65	...	...	...
68	Sykes-Pick	75	...	...	4.4	38.1	995	482	Month Tot	540	0	1	...	1.4

1994		Stock	Price		Div %	Avg vol	Grn net ret
High	Low		£	¢			

10Y		15Y		20Y		30Y		40Y		50Y		60Y		70Y		80Y		90Y		100Y	
Rate	Yld	Rate	Yld	Rate	Yld	Rate	Yld	Rate	Yld	Rate	Yld	Rate	Yld	Rate	Yld	Rate	Yld	Rate	Yld	Rate	Yld
113%	91	126%	101%	129%	79%	130%	69%	131%	60%	132%	51%	133%	42%	134%	33%	135%	24%	136%	15%	137%	6%
126%	101%	129%	79%	130%	69%	131%	60%	132%	51%	133%	42%	134%	33%	135%	24%	136%	15%	137%	6%	138%	-3%
129%	79%	130%	69%	131%	60%	132%	51%	133%	42%	134%	33%	135%	24%	136%	15%	137%	6%	138%	-3%	139%	-12%
130%	69%	131%	60%	132%	51%	133%	42%	134%	33%	135%	24%	136%	15%	137%	6%	138%	-3%	139%	-12%	140%	-21%
131%	60%	132%	51%	133%	42%	134%	33%	135%	24%	136%	15%	137%	6%	138%	-3%	139%	-12%	140%	-21%	141%	-30%
132%	51%	133%	42%	134%	33%	135%	24%	136%	15%	137%	6%	138%	-3%	139%	-12%	140%	-21%	141%	-30%	142%	-39%
133%	42%	134%	33%	135%	24%	136%	15%	137%	6%	138%	-3%	139%	-12%	140%	-21%	141%	-30%	142%	-39%	143%	-48%
134%	33%	135%	24%	136%	15%	137%	6%	138%	-3%	139%	-12%	140%	-21%	141%	-30%	142%	-39%	143%	-48%	144%	-57%
135%	24%	136%	15%	137%	6%	138%	-3%	139%	-12%	140%	-21%	141%	-30%	142%	-39%	143%	-48%	144%	-57%	145%	-66%
136%	15%	137%	6%	138%	-3%	139%	-12%	140%	-21%	141%	-30%	142%	-39%	143%	-48%	144%	-57%	145%	-66%	146%	-75%
137%	6%	138%	-3%	139%	-12%	140%	-21%	141%	-30%	142%	-39%	143%	-48%	144%	-57%	145%	-66%	146%	-75%	147%	-84%
138%	-3%	139%	-12%	140%	-21%	141%	-30%	142%	-39%	143%	-48%	144%	-57%	145%	-66%	146%	-75%	147%	-84%	148%	-93%
139%	-12%	140%	-21%	141%	-30%	142%	-39%	143%	-48%	144%	-57%	145%	-66%	146%	-75%	147%	-84%	148%	-93%	149%	-102%
140%	-21%	141%	-30%	142%	-39%	143%	-48%	144%	-57%	145%	-66%	146%	-75%	147%	-84%	148%	-93%	149%	-102%	150%	-111%
141%	-30%	142%	-39%	143%	-48%	144%	-57%	145%	-66%	146%	-75%	147%	-84%	148%	-93%	149%	-102%	150%	-111%	151%	-120%
142%	-39%	143%	-48%	144%	-57%	145%	-66%	146%	-75%	147%	-84%	148%	-93%	149%	-102%	150%	-111%	151%	-120%	152%	-129%
143%	-48%	144%	-57%	145%	-66%	146%	-75%	147%	-84%	148%	-93%	149%	-102%	150%	-111%	151%	-120%	152%	-129%	153%	-138%
144%	-57%	145%	-66%	146%	-75%	147%	-84%	148%	-93%	149%	-102%	150%	-111%	151%	-120%	152%	-129%	153%	-138%	154%	-147%
145%	-66%	146%	-75%	147%	-84%	148%	-93%	149%	-102%	150%	-111%	151%	-120%	152%	-129%	153%	-138%	154%	-147%	155%	-156%
146%	-75%	147%	-84%	148%	-93%	149%	-102%														

14%	10.66	8.38	117%	92%	TREAS 8% 2013	97%	8.34	8.31
15%	9.80	8.35	130%	122%	Exch 12% 2013-17	132%	9.03	8.51
16%	9.33	8.43	128%	99%	TREAS 8% 2017	104%	8.36	8.28
17%	8.76	8.37						

UNDATED

07% 1	1.4	9.34	0.78	37%	22%	TREAS 2 7/8	20%	1.4	8.50	...
08% 1	1.4	9.34	0.87							
09% 1	1.4	9.34	0.94							
10% 1	1.4	9.34	1.01							
11% 1	1.4	9.34	1.08							
12% 1	1.4	9.34	1.15							
13% 1	1.4	9.34	1.22							
14% 1	1.4	9.34	1.29							
15% 1	1.4	9.34	1.36							
16% 1	1.4	9.34	1.43							
17% 1	1.4	9.34	1.50							
18% 1	1.4	9.34	1.57							
19% 1	1.4	9.34	1.64							
20% 1	1.4	9.34	1.71							
21% 1	1.4	9.34	1.78							
22% 1	1.4	9.34	1.85							
23% 1	1.4	9.34	1.92							
24% 1	1.4	9.34	1.99							
25% 1	1.4	9.34	2.06							
26% 1	1.4	9.34	2.13							
27% 1	1.4	9.34	2.20							
28% 1	1.4	9.34	2.27							
29% 1	1.4	9.34	2.34							
30% 1	1.4	9.34	2.41							
31% 1	1.4	9.34	2.48							
32% 1	1.4	9.34	2.55							
33% 1	1.4	9.34	2.62							
34% 1	1.4	9.34	2.69							
35% 1	1.4	9.34	2.76							
36% 1	1.4	9.34	2.83							
37% 1	1.4	9.34	2.90							
38% 1	1.4	9.34	2.97							
39% 1	1.4	9.34	3.04							
40% 1	1.4	9.34	3.11							
41% 1	1.4	9.34	3.18							
42% 1	1.4	9.34	3.25							
43% 1	1.4	9.34	3.32							
44% 1	1.4	9.34	3.39							
45% 1	1.4	9.34	3.46							
46% 1	1.4	9.34	3.53							
47% 1	1.4	9.34	3.60							
48% 1	1.4	9.34	3.67							
49% 1	1.4	9.34	3.74							
50% 1	1.4	9.34	3.81							
51% 1	1.4	9.34	3.88							
52% 1	1.4	9.34	3.95							
53% 1	1.4	9.34	4.02							
54% 1	1.4	9.34	4.09							
55% 1	1.4	9.34	4.16							
56% 1	1.4	9.34	4.23							

[illegible]

17%	+	8.86	8.83	1481	1481	Treas II 2% 2021	159%	+	3.68	3.84
10%	+	10.04	8.83	157%	156%	Treas II 2% 2020	159%	+	3.70	3.86
10%	+	8.86	8.47	352%	128%	Treas II 2% 2020	132%	+	3.73	3.87
10%	+	10.30	8.81	128%	105%	Treas II 2% 2024	110%	+	3.71	3.84
10%	+	8.99	8.41	128%	108%	Treas II 4% 2030	100%	+	3.74	3.88

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SEC: \$ Price or suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex
§; ¶ Ex rights issue; & Ex alt; * Ex capital
structure; ** Figures of record omitted; --- No

1997

1000

UNIT TRUST PRICES 27

	BL	Offer	...	...
SCOTTISH AMICABLE LT MGRS LTD				
150 St Vincent St, Glasgow G2 5NQ				
041 506 2200				
Equity Finance	46.9%	12.1%	0.1%	...
Equity Plan	66.0%	65.9%	0.3%	...
Equity Finance	28.9%	13.2%	7.1%	...
Equity Finance	17.1%	66.2%	11.2%	...
Equity Finance	15.6%	...	0.1%	...

Japan	86.25	86.25	= 0.00
South Korea	122.85	121.15	= 1.70
Sweden	87.1	107.84	= -20.74

SCOTLISH EQUITABLE FID MGRS LTD			
25 St Andrew Sq, Edinburgh EH6 4AA			
Cash	31.25	30.35	= 0.90
UK General Inv	51.25	54.70	= -3.45
Intl Income	210.80	31.30	= 179.50
US Stocks	74.15	86.25	= -12.10
Japan	76.04	81.49	= -5.45

STOCKS	35.71	32.67	+ 0.12
US GOVT BOND	75.29	76.41	+ 0.22
EURO BOND	75.00	76.37	+ 0.17
UK GOVT BOND	61.36	64.14	+ 0.06
WORLDWIDE	76.34	71.92	+ 0.13
EURO CREDIT	56.81	51.99	+ 0.02
TECHNOLOGY	130.15	126.99	+ 0.06

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 19 St Andrew Sq, Edinburgh EH2 2SL
 Tel: 0131 226 4100 Fax: 0131 226 4101

Scottish	50.00	154.10	+1.40	1.0
Scottish	50.00	154.10	+1.40	1.0

SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD
100 St Vincent St Glasgow G2 5HN
041 269 6100

Scottish	50.00	154.10	+1.40	1.0
Scottish	50.00	154.10	+1.40	1.0

	1987-88	1986-87	1985-86
Scottish Widows Ltd.	205.75	-1.55	0.00
Scottish Widows plc	205.10	-1.55	0.00
Scottish Widows Ltd & Co	50.25	-1.50	0.00

SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT

PO Box 541, Edinburgh EH6 5BA

	1987-88	1986-87	1985-86
Scottish Widows Ltd	205.75	-1.55	0.00
Scottish Widows plc	205.10	-1.55	0.00
Scottish Widows Ltd & Co	50.25	-1.50	0.00

1st	90.66	100.00		4.78
2nd	136.12	112.19	+ 0.30	2.93
3rd	90.71	95.87	+ 0.40	5.16

SIMPLER LEASE FUND MGMT LTD.
 4 Ravleigh Rd. Hutton, Brentwood, Essex
 Enquiries: 0277 281 300 Dealing: 0277 281 010
 Simon Brewster 150.00 161.50 + 1.50 4.1

SHARP (ALBERT E) & CO
 4 Ravleigh Rd Hutton, Brentwood Essex
 Enquiries: 0277 281 300 Dealing: 0277 281 010

NY Bond & Corp.	12.90	13.00	0.10
Fixed Income	20.00	20.00	0.00
Small Cap	11.25	11.25	0.00
Mid Cap	12.50	12.50	0.00

For Issuance in Midflow

SINGER & FRIEDLANDER
INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD
21 New St, London EC2M 2HR 071 626 6222

Ampl. Gd. Fund	51.50	51.50	0.00
Ampl. Gd. Fund	110.50	110.50	0.00

General Funds	46.62	+ 0.76	7.4%
Specials	105.10	- 0.73	- 0.7%
Tot. Grants	109.10	+ 0.52	0.5%
Tot. Payments	170.50	- 0.20	- 0.1%

SMITH & WILLIAMSON, LT MGRS
 1 Ridgely House St. London W1A 3AS
 071 637 5377

American	272.60	289.40	- 1.60	0.6%
Canadian	74.56	78.91	- 0.20	0.03%
Capital	130.30	139.93	- 0.40	1.7%
Cash	201.31	101.31	+ 0.01	47.8%

Growth	140.40	149.00	+ 0.70	1.0
Incense	132.50	140.20	+ 0.50	4.5
Magnum	139.40	149.80	+ 0.50	1.1
Smllr Secs	377.40	399.90	+ 0.40	0.9
Thoroughbred	162.23	174.30	+ 0.50	0.9

SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
12 Christchurch Rd. Bournemouth				
0202 298 422				
Cash	49.98	50.48	+ 0.01	4.1
Corried Prince	56.04	59.77	+ 0.05	3.9
Etihel	55.10	58.67	+ 0.06	7.5

Include:	91.28	98.60	0.50	2.42
Intl Growth	101.30	109.00	- 0.50	2.60
Managed	82.61	88.87	- 0.18	3.00
UK Growth	61.38	65.47	- 0.09	3.40

STANDARD LIFE TST MGMT LTD				
3 George St, Edinburgh EH2 2KZ 0800 393 710				
Managed Acc:	51.15	54.35	+ 0.10	1.40
UK Equity Gth Acc:	66.12	72.78	+ 0.70	1.30
-UK-High Inc Inc	37.40	39.34	+ 0.20	1.60
-UK-High Inc Acc	45.36	48.20	+ 0.30	2.40
UK Equity Gth Acc	61.73	65.59	+ 0.30	2.40

US LPR Co Inc	322.30	351.30	+ 1.90	3.4
USF & Food Int Inc	30.12	31.36	+ 0.18	6.6
Deere Lg Co Acc	319.60	347.10	+ 1.70	1.4
Nth American Acc	43.18	45.88	+ 0.29	0.1
Far East Acc	73.68	78.29	+ 0.40	0.8
Europeth Acc	53.74	57.10	+ 0.30	0.6

STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD				
28 King Street, London SW1 6GP 071 344 780				
Global A (US\$)	3.854	4.090	...	0.6
US Equis (US\$)	2.419	2.567	...	0.5
Far East Equis (yen)	268.40	285.10	...	0.5

FT N Amer (US\$)	1 752	1 558	...	0.7
FT Japan (yen)	246.20	261.60	...	0.6
FT Asia Exclap (US\$)	2 581	2 742	...	0.6

STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS				LITE
45 Charlotte Sq, Edinburgh	834	226	3271	
American	343.00	365.80	- 4.60	0.0
British	10.34	10.19	+ 3.60	3.3
Emerging Mkts	167.20	178.10	- 0.30	0.1
European	547.80	583.40	- 0.90	0.9
Japan	175.10	186.00	- 1.80	0.0
Mktg/Perf	473.70	430.00	+ 6.00	0.0

Managed Equity	176.30	186.50	+ 1.00	4.3
Single Cash	95.72	95.72	+ 0.00	4.3

SUN ALLIANCE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hatton, Broadwold, Essex				
Equinetics	8277 227 308	Dealing:	8277 498 388	
Equity	825.70	883.10	+ 2.50	2.9
North America	120.00	129.30	+ 1.20	0.9
Far East	159.00	170.10	+ 1.00	0.5
World Bond	56.96	60.47	+ 0.53	5.46
European	106.50	116.00	+ 0.40	0.16
Equity Income	91.75	98.13	+ 0.21	0.40

Broker Trades	70.51	75.41*	+ 0.04 ...
Instl Equity			
SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD			
Basic Growth, Basic Income	33.98	36.35	- 0.26 0.44
American Growth	33.98	36.35	- 0.26 0.75
Managed Assets	127.48	136.35*	- 0.42 2.86
UK Income	40.17	42.97	- 0.42 3.41
UK Growth	39.44	42.19	- 0.25 2.68
Worldwide Growth	36.31	38.54	- 0.16 0.53
SUN LIFE TRUST MGMT LTD			

Master Portfolio	51.24	54.51	0.003	0.01
Cap Protective Inc	42.75	45.72	0.01	2.81%
UIC Income Inc	51.25	54.79	0.19	3.42%
Mingd Extra Inc Inc	32.68	34.99	0.11	3.38%
Mingd High Yield Inc	79.57	85.10	0.15	4.33%
Mingd Grh/Gth Inc	75.65	80.91	0.28	3.29%
Mingd Wkld Gth	37.91	40.55	0.05	1.32%
UK Smaller Cos	35.34	37.80	0.08	1.56%
Pacific Grth Port	49.51	52.05	0.29	

TSB UNIT TRUSTS			
Charlton	Andrew	Harro	SPHIDE

American	199,80	272.58	- 7.84	
Orin Growth	96.66	102.00	- 0.36	1.99
European	115.41	122.78	- 0.41	0.80
Extra Income	201.39	214.25	- 0.90	3.98
Smaller Cn's	74.17	77.84	- 0.30	1.27
General	267.18	306.25	- 1.37	2.22
Premier Income	50.67	52.16	- 0.15	6.16
Income	345.05	367.08	- 2.01	3.69
Pacific	452.35	481.22	- 2.49	
International	564.70	600.74	- 2.84	0.12
Investment Resources	176.78	188.20	- 1.54	0.03
Gold Ops	108.75	115.30	- 0.54	1.21
Investment at Risk	26.27	27.43	- 0.54	1.41

High Income	64.7%	68.31%	+ 0.20	4.41
Total Income	56.70	62.45	+ 0.06	7.75
Selective Income	61.95	65.90	+ 0.21	4.83

FUND MANAGERS LIMITED
 NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon
 Surrey CR8 7JG
 Tel: 0181 607 1025

TEMPLETON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
 Salford Court, 25 Castle Terrace,
 Edinburgh EH1 2EH
 Tel: 031 469 4000

Thornton Unit Managers Ltd	124.11	132.74	- 0.05	1.39
THORNTON UNIT MANAGERS LTD 15 Queen Street, London EC4R 1AX 071 246 3800 Dealing: 071 246 3808				
Avon South Cos	61.28	65.36	- 0.53	..
Overseas Eut Bd	40.97	43.05	- 0.04	6.00
European Growth	282.44	300.15	- 1.05	0.90
Europ	52.73	59.41	- 1.90	3.50
Global Em Mkts	109.24	116.52	- 0.24	0.60
Asian Growth	49.11	52.38	- 0.35	..

North Amer Growth	215.91	230.04	- 0.62	0.70
Oriental Income	50.16	83.50	- 1.68	0.40
Preferees	130.06	128.40	- 0.17	8.50
Tiger	292.63	312.13	- 3.76	
UK Blue Chip	62.15	96.38	- 0.17	3.00
UK Growth	512.11	547.71	- 1.77	2.50
UK High Yield	104.96	112.25	- 0.38	3.40
UK Mid-Cap	302.56	282.31	- 0.70	1.90
UK Smllr Cos	103.94	109.71	- 0.24	1.10
UK Smllr Cos Div	97.70	104.49	- 0.25	4.70

Charterhouse	McEwen	US\$	1991
Australasian Gold	30.33	32.26	- 0.35 ...
Pacific Basin	43.27	46.03	- 0.68 ...
Can Baled Guth	28.01	29.79	- 0.31 ...
Global Bond (US\$)	0.87	0.81	+0.00 5.75
Penny Share	32.33	34.39	+ 0.05 0.30

WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD		
Honey Lane, London EC2Y 8BT 071 600 0462		
Challenger		
Short Delt Gilt		
106.10	109.60	+ 0.20 ...
92.14	94.28	+ 0.55 ...
106.10	109.60	+ 0.20 ...

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price: .. No significant data.

Small firms leading way on investment

By Derek Harris

SMALL manufacturers are bucking the trend on investment, with plans to spend on new plant and machinery at a faster rate than manufacturing industry as a whole, according to the latest survey of small business activity by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) with Pannell Kerr Forster, the chartered accountant.

Big companies' tardiness over investment, in spite of low interest rates and modest inflation, has worried the CBI and the Bank of England, so the response of small businesses is particularly welcome.

The survey, covering the four months to July, found considerable activity among smaller businesses, offering a sounder basis for decisions to invest. Orders and output rose strongly over the period, and at the fastest rate for more than five years. Export orders had their sharpest rise for six years.

Fourteen per cent of small firms took on more employees to cope with higher demand, against only 5 per cent doing so in April. About 12 per cent of firms expect to increase jobs in the next four months.

The survey strikes a positive or negative balance as between firms expecting increases or decreases. On investment, a positive balance of 12 per cent expect to pump more money into plant and machinery in the next 12 months. For the first time since January 1989, small firms do not expect to reduce investment in buildings. Spending on both inno-

vation and training is also expected to rise over the next year.

The main preoccupations of small businesses in directing investment spending are to increase efficiency and to replace old facilities. Even so, 28 per cent cited the need to extend capacity.

This still left 56 per cent confused about likely demand as recessionary effects ease. This uncertainty was a "most important" constraint on investment, they said.

John Parsons, chairman of the CBI smaller firms council, said: "Perhaps the most significant development is the increased intentions to invest in capital equipment, innovation and training, all of which are essential ingredients for the recovery."



"My quality certification is that my business has survived for ten years!"

Farm has fine crop of visitors

By Veronica Heath

A TEACHER who became a farmer — and then saw a chance to diversify — welcomed 25,000 children to her farm last year, and expects at least 30,000 this year.

Elizabeth Walton runs Marlish Farm, near Morpeth, Northumberland, with her brother John, but she was a teacher for nine years, until her father died. "At that point," she says, "I came home to help on the family farm."

The next year, she began arranging visits for former colleagues' school classes, so the children could see a working farm. An open weekend followed and 30 visits were booked for the next spring. It was the start of a successful business venture. "I could see the potential," Miss Walton says. "I knew I would enjoy doing it. I am a trained educationalist, I love kids and, having been raised on a family farm, I knew about farming too."

She says: "With the benefit of hindsight, it is possible to see that diversifying was the best thing we could have done. We have changed our farming policy, with a reduced area of 250 acres, and we are less intensive in stock keeping."

She insists that the animals pay their way. "This is a working farm," she says. "The lambs and pigs go to the market when they are ready, just like our neighbours' beasts. Our ducks and hens are nurtured for their eggs or for the table. They are not ornaments."

The Department of Trade and Industry gave £2,000 to help to



Elizabeth Walton keeps young visitors enthralled down on the "working farm" she has opened to the public

produce a quality system manual for the farm and an educational work pack. Insurance premiums are heavy, with the business insured for £3 million. To beat the weather, barns have been converted into classrooms, with screens for visual displays. A dozen part-time farm trail leaders are employed. Up to eight work on any day, one for each class of visitors.

Further expansion is planned. Miss Walton explains: "Redundant

granaries are planned to be work rooms. We will need a grant, but the children will get hands-on experience of what running a farm and being involved in the countryside really means."

Children are encouraged to handle lambs and goat kids, and to feed them, and can watch animals being born and ducks hatching out. They may also, under guidance, climb into the driving seats of tractors and handle the controls. A

shop that started with a few farm-related souvenirs is now a thriving separate business run by Miss Walton's mother, Ann Walton.

A profitable winter attraction has been nativity plays, for which a stage and seating are installed and farm animals are used as props. Miss Walton would like to develop leisure activities, perhaps offering camping and barbecue facilities, but "the next essential is a larger shop and, perhaps, a cafe."

Potential overseas customers of UK companies are to get computer assistance at British embassies in a pilot scheme. The pilot, being run at 12 embassies, covers British businesses in the oil and gas sector. Choosing a supplier can take overseas customers some time because company records are in a mixture of paper and computer files.

The new, fully computerised system will bypass that and also deal with inquiries who use much market jargon. Information can be retrieved by entering key industry words, as well as company names. If the experiment, covering 2,500 companies, is encouraging, it will be extended to more embassies, and may one day be expanded to cover other industrial sectors.

□ Solotec, the South London Training and Enterprise Council, has updated its free factsheet on sources of finance for small business, which takes in government grants and venture capital sources, including "business angel" investors. Telephone Solotec customer services on 081-313 9232.

□ Thames Valley Chambers of Commerce and Industry are expanding their Business-to-Business exhibition this year after the success of the 1993 event, at Newbury. The show, on September 29 and 30, will have a bigger site, at Aldenham Park. The 100 stands cost from £30 a square metre. Details: Linda Beardmore or Pat Rex on 0635 36702.

EDITED BY DEREK HARRIS

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POP page 30
Farewell (yet again) to
the house of fun:
Madness bow out with a
Finsbury Park jamboree

ARTS

PROMS 1994 page 31
Fighting for the right to
go on thinking: Sir Peter
Maxwell Davies unveils
his Fifth Symphony



VISUAL ART: Turner's view of Holland at the Tate; plus recommended exhibitions in London and Paris

A roaring gale of inspiration

Richard Cork on an illuminating survey which charts the influence of Holland and Dutch art on one of Britain's greatest artists

Among the nations explored with such energy by the adventurous Turner, Holland has been overlooked. We associate his travels with spectacular settings like the Alps, not the understatement of the Low Countries. But the truth is that Holland had a special place in his affections, and an illuminating exhibition at the Tate Gallery explains why.

Part of Turner's fascination with Dutch art stemmed from a momentous encounter in his youth. Years later, he came across a *Gust of Wind* by William Van de Velde, a leading marine artist of the 17th century. Staring at it excitedly, he cried: "Ah! That made me a painter". Apart from reinforcing Turner's interest in the sea's potential as a subject, *Gust of Wind* had the turbulence he loved. The gale, struggling to ride the high waves, is dramatic enough, but Van de Velde also provides a tumultuous sky where clouds seem to be parting at the command of God Himself.

Such stormy conditions could hardly be witnessed in the Pool of London, where the young Turner first discovered the influence of Dutch art. But he was not alone. With sea-going friends, he visited to Margate, exposed him to more tempestuous sights. They ensured that his first exhibited painting had a maritime theme, and that Turner first established his reputation with a large, overwhelmingly confident canvas called *Dutch Boats in a Gale*. It was commissioned, appropriately, by a great canal builder: the Duke of Bridgewater, known as the "Father of British Inland Waterways". He wanted a companion piece to his Van de Velde painting *A Rising Gale*, and Turner must have been delighted with the invitation to provide one. Stimulated by the challenge of vying with an artist he loved, the young prodigy surpassed himself. *Dutch Boats in a Gale* invades our senses with the fury of the sea at once. It is far more immediate than the Van de Velde, and Turner's appetite for drama impelled him to set the two boats on a collision course. The fishermen in the smaller vessel have

no inkling, as they strain for their catch, of the imminent catastrophe. But Turner makes sure that his viewers realise soon enough. He places the endangered vessel in the foreground, and two years later he gave still more prominence to a perilous incident in his bravura painting of *Calais Pier*.

This time, Turner depicts the dynamism of the waves with even greater gusto. But they are juxtaposed with panic-stricken fishermen, who struggle to prevent their boat smashing against the pier. Their plight seems just as alarming as the travels experienced earlier by the artist himself, when his ferry-boat was almost swamped as it tried to land on Calais beach.

So far, Turner's involvement with Holland had only been expressed through his respect for Dutch art. *Calais Pier* is riddled with admiring references to Backhuysen and Ruysdael, both masters of the seascape tradition. Turner, however, had yet to see Holland with his own eyes, and in 1817 he eventually made his first visit. The initial goal was the field of Waterloo. As that first discovery, the Kingdom of the Netherlands included modern Belgium. So Turner discovered himself in Holland when he explored the land where Napoleon suffered his gravest defeat.

Two years had passed since the battle, and he was disgusted with the gung-ho images of Waterloo already made by British artists. Turner wanted to stress the horror of the slaughter, and some of his on-the-spot sketches contain notes like "hollow where the great carnage took place of the Cuirassiers by the Guards". This was the place where British forces had bravely held the manor house of Hougomont, thereby decisively affecting the battle's course. But rather than producing a heroic picture, Turner made *The Field of Waterloo* into a despairing indictment of war.

He settles on the night after the battle, when Hougomont still burns in the distance and a white flare irradiates the sky like a mysterious



The Prince of Orange, William III, Embarked from Holland, and Landed at Torbay, November 4 1688: a more spirited picture than the unwieldy title suggests

nimbus. It has been sent up by wounded survivors, trying to fend off plundering assassins. The soldiers sprawled in the foreground, though, have all been killed. They are heaped on each other, French and Scots guards together. And the only light shed on them comes from torches, held by women anxiously searching for their husbands, lovers and sons. There is no hint of redeeming nobility in this ignominious pile of corpses. The splendour of their uniforms contrasts ironically with the inertness of the limbs inside. Enemies while alive, they are united here regardless of national allegiance.

It is one of Turner's most angry and despairing pictures, and the public hated it. *The Field of Waterloo* was sent back unsold to Turner's studio, where it remained hidden until 1980. But the very opposite response greeted *Dort or Dordrecht*, the painting he intended as a counterpoint to the battle-piece. For this supremely idyllic canvas celebrates the blissful placidity of a becalmed packet-boat. It floats on the autumnal water like a mirage, and the harbour beyond is punctuated by other sails melting in the sunlight.

Although this deliquescent image may look as exalted as a dream of paradise, it was based on the most tenacious observation. More than 600 sketches survive from Turner's travels in the Low Countries. They testify to his discipline, and a perpetual eagerness to learn. Despite his virtuosity and early success, he always remained determined to root his pictures in first-hand scrutiny of the subject. However fanciful or visionary he became in later life, his need to draw from nature rarely faltered. In the sketchbooks displayed here, we can watch the indefatigable artist making swift pencil studies of even the most mundane sights.

All the same, Dutch art remained as important an inspiration as Dutch life. The painter whose example lies behind the glowing beneficence of *Dort or Dordrecht* is Cuypp, whose *The Meas at Dordrecht* would have been seen by Turner when it was exhibited at the British Institution in 1815.

Cuypp's cloud effects surely helped Turner to organise the consummate sky in *Entrance of the Meuse*. The figures searching for a wrecked cargo of oranges in this ambitious picture

are marred by clumsiness, as so often in Turner's work. But the clouds occupying most of the picture-surface are a *tour de force*. Perhaps the ever-competitive Turner wanted to outdo Constable, whose own mastery of the skies was then becoming formidable. As Turner grew older, his restlessness made him want to rival the greatest Dutch painter of all. But despite the effort he expended on *Pilate Washing his Hands*, the result compares poorly with Rembrandt. Pilate himself is nearly invisible, and the stilted female figures in the centre fail to convey the emotion Turner sought.

He was far happier returning to seascapes, even when the outcome bore a title as distended as *The Prince of Orange, William III, Embarked from Holland, and Landed at Torbay, November 4th 1688, after a Stormy Passage*. The painting saddled with this convoluted name is a surprising, by spirited invention. And the figure of the prince could equally well be Turner himself. Delying the rough waves, he stands up in the long-boat and raises his hat to the sea, the sky and the ships in full, magnificent sail. ● Turner's Holland is at the Tate Gallery (071-887 8000) until October 2

AROUND THE GALLERIES

Noel Forster builds up his paintings with a system of broken lines, one on top of another, until eventually one colour manages to dominate. A powdery blue painting sits between one that is yellow and another that is white. Forster always paints on dark coloured linen, and areas missed by his regular and systematic construction often show through. The effect is of light slowly built upon dark. The Slade Gallery, with its small rabbit-hole entrance and then perfectly functional square gallery, is a suitable place to find such unsavoury paintings. As an experienced artist, a "grown-up" painter, Forster has no interest in instant explanation. The red in the first of the four paintings hung side by side has the quality of lacquer on a screen or tray. A pair opposite, one black and one white, have an undulating rhythm that pushes them far from representation. Slade Gallery, Slade School of Art, Gower Street, London WC1 071-380 7772 until Friday

It is clear that the young photographer, Ajamu, owes much to Robert Mapplethorpe. The idea that "unusual" sexuality could be represented by smartly framed, simple, stylish black and white photographs certainly caused enough trouble for Mapplethorpe in America. When seen from the pavement outside on the Roman Road, however, "Black Bodyscapes" at Camerawork looks like one of the most conservative exhibitions to be held there in a long time. The subject matter, not the appearance of the show, is what is expected to shock. The photographs of close-ups of young black men are immaculately labelled and often hung two or three deep. One of them might wear a strange and unlikely outfit like a white wedding gown, while others wear nothing at all. A self-portrait shows the artist to have closely cropped hair, demurely lowered eyes and a chunky pearl choker. The

props and players of sex are tastefully, delicately and almost classically pictured until the pictures become caricatures in themselves. Camerawork, 121 Roman Road, London E2 (081-980 6256) until Saturday

A number of extremely large wooden sculptures by the painter Georg Baselitz make up one of the exhibitions in the ever expanding empire of galleries at Anthony d'Offay. At first sight the sculptures, which range well above head height, appear to embody almost everything that is German and Expressionist. Figures which have been hacked and wrenched, heaved and cleft out of massive chunks of wood stand as blind, dumb, wounded sentinels. A head which follows a rough and approximate outline has red paint daubed where its mouth, eyes, nose and nostrils should be. The wood which has not been worked remains as a rough equivalent of painting in process, while the chiselled uneven surface suggests a desperate, awkward and clumsy — but nonetheless effective — stab at making visual sense. Anthony d'Offay, 9, 21, 23 and 24 Dering Street, London W1, 071-499 4100 until end August

Many young artists now believe that Yves Klein, who died in 1962, was just about the cleverest artist of his time. His work still fulfils many contemporary needs. He transformed found objects, such as a school globe or a souvenir cast of a Michelangelo sculpture, covering them with a deep layer of his own astoundingly deep blue pigment. He transformed casts of his own body, and burnt delicate marks, like flowers, on to cardboard. The extra depth in the blue shadows is reinforced by the museum-style show at Gimpel Fils in which everything looks valuable and timeless. Yves Klein, Gimpel Fils, 30 Davies St. London W1, 071-629 5732 until Sept 3

SACHA CRADDOCK

PARIS GALLERIES: John Russell Taylor on a blockbuster line-up of famous works, and a new exhibition space

Strong first impressions

To anyone who thinks that "modern art" began in 1874, with the first Impressionist exhibition, it may come as a bit of a shock that Impressionism's Les Origines, the current blockbuster show at the Grand Palais in Paris, covers only the decade 1859-1869.

Of course, the most influential art movement of modern times did not spring into existence fully formed. But such rationalisations do not prepare one for the number of the most famous paintings in the world that the exhibition contains.

The amazing thing is seeing them all together. Manet's *Le Déjeuner sur l'Herbe* and *Olympia*, Renoir's *Le Jeune Garçon au Chat* and *La Promenade*, Cézanne's *Le Pendule Notre*, Degas's *Le Défilé*, and *Intérieur (Le Viol)*, Monet and Renoir painting together the bathing place at La Grenouillère, Manet's dazzling snow scene, *La Route de la Ferme Saint-Siméon*, and his breezy Channel scene, *Jardin à Sainte-Adresse*. The list goes on and on.

But the show is not just an anthology of popular favourites. It does indeed indicate that Impressionism did not come out of nothing, and nor did its famous figures set out deliberately to be revolutionaries. In the 1850s, they were all students in Paris, apprenticed to some very traditional masters. Though they objected to the official system of the Salons, conventionally regarded as the only route to worldly success in art, it was not so much on principle as because

they did not manage to get many works selected.

One can understand why in the first room, which collects together a sampling of the Salon, in 1859. Pretty staid stuff, for the most part. The taste represented by Bouguereau's *Le Jour des Morts*, with its cast-iron draughtsmanship and saccharine sentimentality, would hardly be likely to accommodate also Manet's unsparing depictions of modern life. On the other hand, as well as the now-despised academic painters, there are prime examples of Delacroix, Corot, Daubigny, and Pissarro. The Salon of 1859 was also the first to admit photography.

As well as giving full weight to the originality of the Impressionists, the present show makes clear how far they fitted into the general art scene of their early days. This is done by arranging the show according to the genres of academic art: a room of history paintings, a room of landscapes, a room of still-lives, a room of nudes, a room of portraits, and so on.

The surprises come partly from observing how neatly the Impressionists fit when they want to, partly from seeing how unimpressive is some of the work which lies on the other side of the imagined great divide. One is reminded of the friendships between wannabe Impressionists and figures



The current show at the Fondation Cartier: the building itself is the real work of art

such as Tissot, Whistler and Alphonse Legros.

The differences manifest themselves mainly in nuances: the classic comparison between Degas's bizarre off-centre *Femme accoudée près d'un vase de fleurs* of 1865, and Courbet's similar yet so different *La Femme aux Fleurs* of 1862, can here be carried out on adjacent walls of the Grand Palais. It certainly demonstrates the originality of Degas, but also shows how he, like all the Impressionists at the start of their careers, was very much a man of his time.

The other important artistic event in Paris this summer is the opening of the new Fondation Cartier galleries in the city centre, after several years in which the foundation's activities all took place on the periphery, in their park-cum-gallery at Jouy en Josas. Now it all comes together in a sparkling new building of glass and metal by Jean Nouvel in the Boulevard Raspail, on the site of the old American Centre.

There are gains and losses in the new situation. The most obvious gain is accessibility.

The main loss is in space: instead of the various gallery spaces at Jouy and the rolling parkland in which they were set, there are four (admittedly large) interior galleries, two,

glass-walled, at street level, and two in the first basement below. The intention is to pursue a policy of working with contemporary artists to produce shows more or less tailored to the site.

For the opening display, Richard Artschwager has made several large sculptures, of which the most striking are those which play with punctuation marks on a giant scale: Ron Arad has made an imposing installation of cloud-shaped mirror-topped tables; and Patrick Sorin has staged a brief video which makes explicit the violence implicit in a silent comedy, custard-pie routine.

All the works concerned suffer from the same problem as most really effective pieces of conceptual art: the effect is immediate, short-lived and unrepeatable. But then clearly the major art work here is the building itself.

● Impressionism: Les Origines continues at the Grand Palais, 3 avenue du Général Eisenhower (44 13 17 30) Wed 10am-10pm, Thurs-Mon, 10am-6pm, until Aug 18 ● Works by Richard Artschwager et al can be seen at the Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, 261 Boulevard Raspail (42 18 56 50), Tues-Sun, 12 noon-8pm (Thurs to 10pm) until Sept 4

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PROMS 1994: Looking forward to the next stage in a mighty career; and looking back at two varied, imaginative concerts



Despite the trappings of Establishment success, Peter Maxwell Davies and his music remain anything but conventional

En route to circling the magic square

Tonight, Peter Maxwell Davies will conduct the world premiere of his Fifth Symphony. Stephen Pettitt joins him at the bars

These are halcyon days for Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's merry band of followers. A new biography (albeit too sycophantic and sketchy by half) has appeared, written by Mike Seabrook. There are new recordings of his Second and Third Symphonies, conducted by the composer himself, and further expanding the already vast Collins Classics Davies discography. Next month, on his sixtieth birthday, the belated British premiere — albeit unstaged — in Manchester of his "black comic" opera *Resurrection*, disastrously produced in Darmstadt a few years ago and almost unheard of since, takes place. Collins will also record that. And tonight, Davies's Fifth Symphony receives its world premiere at the hands of its commissioners, the Philharmonia Orchestra, conducted by the composer.

There has lately been much gossip about how he has gone soft, lyrical and nostalgic, about how he is too willing to provide light or functional pieces without evident substance, about how he is willing to partake of the conductors' jet-setting, standard repertoire-conducting lifestyle: in short about how he has become an Establishment figure, knighthood and all. But the fact is that he still produces some challenging, original goods — and the man is surely entitled to his fun too.

In Davies's world, each major work reaches a new plane from which the next sets out. Where has the Fifth taken him? "It's a one-movement piece. And I think probably the big influence on it was working over the past two years performing Sibelius's Sixth and Seventh Symphonies and *Tapiola*; pieces I've always known, even as a child. But working at them with orchestras you gain all sorts of different perspectives. What's become more apparent to me is that, in a funny kind of way, I can take the given material, the thematic material, rhythmic motifs, whatever it is, for granted." What interests him above all is the transition and transformation in his music. Literal repetition is now almost absent.

"In a way, I've not composed the new symphony at all. It works on three levels.

I've done part of one, and part of the other and part of the third, and as it were implied the composition running under the composed part so that there are really three pieces on top of each other. Somebody, if he really wanted to — I can't imagine anybody would — could compose the two layers which aren't sounding at any point and 'complete' the piece. But you'd have a hell of an earful! It's like

6 In a funny kind of way, I can take the given material, the rhythmic motifs, for granted

peeling off a layer and finding there's something going on underneath and peeling off another layer and finding there's something going on underneath that. The musical argument is very concentrated, although I've tried to make the piece as transparent as I can, implying texture rather than thickening it out. I hope it will feel a little bit strange."

So is this a deliberate veering away from the Teutonic concept of what a symphony is? "Oh, totally. I've never really subscribed to that. But my earlier things tried to relate ideas to something which was constant throughout. As long as there has been an audible transition from one idea to another, they could be as different as you like. Now I'm cutting that."

Different levels, mutually unrelated ideas, maybe, but is the piece at least harmonically of one world? "Yes. I hope the ideas are individual enough to come through, but I didn't want them to be living in a totally harmonically unrelated world."

Another somewhat arcane unifying device common to much of his work since *Ave Maris Stella* in 1975 is the symphony's use of magic squares as a structural framework. In fact, here Davies employs "magic squares of magic squares of magic squares, all transforming into and out of each other." These days he regards such things very much as an invisible prop, not something that he expects to be heard. He actively enjoys working them out. "I take long walks, putting these patterns into my mind. And they are patterns. They've got their structure and sense. They're not random sequences. They sharpen your mind about structure as such."

The symphony — "the book of philosophy, I suppose" — is how Davies defines it — is obviously in his view far from being a dead form. He has already been commissioned to write a Sixth, for the Royal Philharmonia Orchestra, of which he is associate conductor, in 1996, the year that also sees the premiere of an opera, *The Doctor of Myddfai*, for Welsh National Opera, which he says is about the power of healing being handed down. There is no sign of his creativity slowing when he reaches his birthday. "People accept you in a funny kind of way that they didn't before," he says. "All right, you still have fights with yourself about your own music and your own creativity, but other fights you don't have."

He has won his battle with the public, but that is a battle many young composers these days seem not to have to fight at all. Why? Davies thinks that too many younger composers are simply concerned with composing music that they know will instantly please but goes no further, presents no challenges to performers, audiences or themselves. "One can understand it as part of the market-force orientation of society which has corrupted even composers. It's a very sad thing, every bit as pernicious as its diametric opposite, the extreme left-wing thinking that influenced composers in another part of the world. There's a huge conspiracy to stop us thinking."

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● Peter Maxwell Davies conducts the Philharmonia Orchestra tonight at the Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (071-589 8212). Performance begins 7.30pm; pre-Prom talk at 6.15pm

East meets West at the summit

BBC NOW/Otaka
Albert Hall/Radio 3

AFTER the assorted Wagner of their first programme, Tadaaki Otaka and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales turned wholly to British music for their second Prom appearance on consecutive nights.

The Viola Concerto, which established the young William Walton as a major composer, has seldom benefited from so sympathetic an account of the solo part as it did here from Nobuko Imai. Her firm, confident technique fully commanded all the virtuoso passages, and those of a more lyrical cast revealed her as being keenly aware of an aperiodic content, even to an eloquently soulful ending. Not all the problems of balance were solved in between a less than assertive solo instrument

and a sometimes "submerging" orchestra, but the soloist's understanding of the music's character was always apparent. The visitors from Wales presented their calling card in the form of *Dance Fantasy* by the Swansea composer, Daniel Jones, who died last year. Superior light music notable for its engaging instrumentation and deftly written cross-rhythms, the composer

believed it to be entirely danceable and, at less than eight minutes, only its brevity (and, perhaps, its extravagant orchestration) has told against it attracting a choreographer's interest. As it was, it gave this programme an instantly engaging start, to be followed by a sudden contrast in Delius, whose "Walk to the Paradise Garden" became less a poetic rhapsody under Otaka's con-

ducting than an almost jaunty excursion, although he did obtain some magically soft playing from the orchestra. This was again a virtue at certain points in Elgar's First Symphony, where the conductor, disdaining any score, showed a canny ear for detail. It must be said that he was inclined to take the notes at their face value rather than probe to reveal the music's sorrowful core, but that is not to gainsay the almost picturesque spirit he imparted to the second movement and the sensitive way the Adagio was evoked like a poignant memory, before the finale fought its way to a triumphant if somewhat strident peroration.

NOEL GOODWIN

Centuries of fun in four hours

THE ticket touts outside the Albert Hall missed a good line on Sunday: "Psst! Wanna learn about the complete history of music? Two for a tanner." The occasion was the Proms' tribute to Sir William Glock, and the four-hour long concert three different musics at us, glorifying in its diversity as did the man who governed the Proms from 1959 to 1972. Stephen Pettitt writes.

Glock realised three things: that listening to music from one epoch sharpens the senses for music from another; that having different sounds — chamber group, orchestra,

choir, even renaissance consort — in the same concert keeps the aural appetite fresh; and that a lot of music is neglected through habit rather than through lack of merit. This marathon presented a procession of fine and various things. Pierre Boulez, whom Glock appointed in 1971 as the BBC Symphony Orchestra's conductor, came to lead his old charges and the BBC Symphony Chorus (excellent save for one or two marginally flatish, strained sounds from the tenors) in a typically cogent,

clear-sighted reading of Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms* at the beginning of the concert. He returned near the end for his own urbane yet mesmerising *cummings ist der dichter*. After him in both instances came Sir Colin Davis, who reminded us that Glock, despite his reputation as a champion of the avant-garde, loved his Mozart as much as his Maxwell Davies. Imogen Cooper gave a sonorous account of Mozart's sunny B flat Piano Concerto, K450, and to end the whole party Davis and the BBCSO responded joyfully to the life-enhancing humours of Haydn's *Symphony No 99*. The differently enticing sonorities and the elastic time-manipulations of George Benjamin's *Sudden Time* (1993), conducted by the composer, were heard between the Boulez and the Haydn, not as some kind of mediation, but rather as a contrast to both.

The middle section of the concert was a concert in itself. It began with the Nash Ensemble's shapely performance of Ravel's Introduction and Allegro. No problem of the sound being lost even here; Ravel's instrumentation has extraordinary clarity. Then the New London Consort, the counterpointers James Bowman, half a dozen sopranos from the BBC Singers and the conductor Martyn Brabbins joined the Nash for a rare performance of Elizabeth Lutyens's *The Tears of the Night*. I am not sure if the collision

of two different scales of sound quite works in this piece, and these days Lutyens would surely have written more boldly for the countertenor voice. But it was fascinating to hear this work's evocative settings of medieval and 20th-century fragments again.

Gerard's *Libra*, a BBC commission of 1968, has fared rather better in the



Glock: innovative Proms governor from 1959 to 1972

concert hall. The Nash's reading here, again directed by Brabbins, showed why: it is the most fastidious and beautiful of pieces.

Before that and after the Lutyens the palate needed a little cleansing and the mind a little rest. So the New London Consort, evoking the spirit of Monnow, lurches itself into a vibrant sequence of naughtily orchestrated Renaissance dances that included roles for xylophone and one or two other suspiciously modern-looking percussive exotics.

JOHN HIGGINS

OPERA: Irish win at the Belvedere Walsh triumphant

Sometimes the critics get it right. The annual Belvedere Opera Competition in Vienna uses three different juries. One is formed by opera house directors and their representatives. The public in the theatre on finals day has its own separate vote. The third set of judges, drawn mainly, but not exclusively, from Austrian and German newspapers and radio stations, is there to award the International Media Prize. Four years ago the media were much taken by a dark-haired Romanian soprano, rather nervous on the platform and far less polished than some of her rivals. But the promise was there. Her name was Angela Gheorghiu, and she has become familiar at Covent Garden and elsewhere. But the opera administrators cast their votes elsewhere and the critics later delighted in their own perspicacity. This year there was more

unanimity. The media vote went to Louise Walsh, a 28-year-old from Dublin, who has trained at the Royal Northern College of Music and London's National Opera Studio. This is the first time for many years that anyone studying in Britain has picked up a prize at the Belvedere. Walsh's chosen aria was "Depuis le jour", sung by that other Louise in Charpentier's opera of the same name. It was a bold choice — Charpentier is not, flavour of the year in Vienna — but showed her ability to float a sustained *pianissimo* into the theatre and her understanding of French style. The top of the voice still sounds a bit pinched, but a clear intelligence lit up the performance

and there looks to be plenty of potential there. Immediate engagements were offered. In a separate private ballot the administrators placed Walsh second out of the 17 finalists — total entries numbered more than 2,000. Their vote went to Stanislav Schvets, a Russian bass who, at 20, was by far the youngest competitor on the day and youngest major prizewinner over the years. He looked as though he was receiving the school tennis cup, but the voice is there in abundance. How long it will take him to acquire the presence to sing the sears, kings and villains of the normal bass repertoire is unsure. In the meantime, watch out for Martina Ripping, placed second by the media and third

by the administrators, a coloratura of considerable accomplishment. She was born in Halle and taught by Schwarzkopf; musical credentials do not come much better than that. The Belvedere Competition is run by Vienna's Chamber Opera and their summer production of *Le nozze di Figaro* in a corner of the gardens of Schönbrunn has three prizewinners from earlier years. The outstanding one is Ildiko Raimondi, a Romanian who has gone on to be a member of the Vienna State Opera. Her Susanna mixes human resourcefulness with vocal sweetness. Her Figaro, Maxim Mikhailov, was also an old Belvedere hand: pugnacious and ready to play the audience and running short of stamina. The trio was completed by Luisa Ali-Zade, an insufficiently boyish Cherubino.

JOHN HIGGINS

Free jazz given form

Tippett and Riley add lustre to Dartington's music summer school

Although a relatively small component of the annual Dartington International Summer School and Festival of Music, the two-week jazz course plays an important role. It not only constitutes a vital part of the "modern" end of the event's musical range, but also neatly exemplifies two points of debate in musical education generally and jazz in particular. Few figures are better qualified to comment on such matters than Keith Tippett, who directs the jazz course alongside fellow pianist Lewis Riley. A seminal figure in freely improvised music for more than 25 years, Tippett is a mesmerising solo performer, but also shines in a variety of contexts. His 50-piece band Centipede provided a valuable focus for the energies of UK improvisers two decades ago; his quintet *Mujician* is a peerless free-jazz outfit. His duo performances — one of which, with saxophonist Paul Dunmall, was an electrifying highlight of the festival's second week — are justly celebrated. First debating point: can jazz be taught? "The emphasis is on the course members learning, not us teaching,"

Tippett says. "Lewis and I can create an architecture, allow people to develop a vocabulary, but you can't really teach jazz. I try to open a window in people's hearts. It might take one minute, it might take two weeks."

Second debating point: how structured should jazz material be, how solid the musical "architecture" to facilitate the expression of the improvising spirit, jazz's lifeblood? Tippett, unsurprisingly, is a strong believer in spontaneity. "The greatest beauty of jazz improvisation is that it's up to you as a player: you can be

a creator, not a curator. I bring material here which won't intimidate the beginner, but which, even if easily read by the experienced musician, will be sufficiently challenging in the framework of their improvisation. Lewis brings his own pieces and jazz classics to his class: my class is more about free jazz."

The value of this dual complementary approach was made apparent in the jazz course members' final concert. The first half — Riley's — showcased bustling arrangements of big-and-small band flagwavers and culminated in a rousing rendition of Frank Zappa's "Son of Mr Green Genes".

Tippett's contribution was a great deal looser, featuring head arrangements — one a tumultuous rock'n'roll-based piece — triggered by colour-coded cards held up by him. Both approaches, however, proved equally essential to the musicians' development, each at times producing jazz that conformed to Tippett's own criterion of a performer's duty to an audience: "To move them and, hopefully, leave them with an afterglow."

CHRIS PARKER

Win a Club Med ski holiday

OVER THE next three weeks, *The Times* offers readers a chance to win one of three Club Med holidays to France, Greece and the US. And £100 worth of travellers' cheques can be won every day by entering and solving our crossword challenges.

This week's crossword challenge is all about France — we are offering readers the chance to win a holiday for two to the Club Med village at La Plagne, in the Tarentaise mountains of Savoie in the French Alps. The prize — worth more than £2,000 — includes flights and transfers to and from the village, full board, ski tuition and ski passes, evening entertainment, as well as insurance.

TO ENTER THE CONTEST To enter, solve the crossword clues in *The Times* every day this week (the first six clues were printed in Weekend on Saturday, August 6) and write them on the crossword grid which was also printed on Saturday.

When you have solved all the clues and completed the grid, send it with your name, address and daytime telephone number to: *The Times* Crossword Challenge.

entry (1), 30 Boulevard Street, London EC8R 4NG, to arrive no later than Friday, August 19. Today, readers also have the chance to win £100 of travellers' cheques in the denomination of their choice, courtesy of The Travel Bureau. To enter, simply solve the crossword clues printed today and phone your answers to our competition hotline number.

HOTLINE NUMBER: 0839 444 574 The telephone lines will be open until midnight 10.00pm. You will be asked to leave your answers, with your name, address and daytime telephone number.

The winner will be selected from all correct entries received after the closing date and notified by phone. Calls are charged at 39p a minute (cheap rate and 49p a minute at all other times). *The Times* Newspapers competition rules apply. Tomorrow, there will be another six clues and another £100 worth of travellers' cheques to be won. Now try to solve *The Times* Crossword, page 20, and/or *Times Two Crossword*, page 40.

THE THIRD SIX CLUES

ACROSS

- 13 Pair shortly expel long-winded novelist (6)
16 Arm torment, working in Parisian artists' quarter (10)
20 Double feature cheers (4-4)

DOWN

- 8 An impressive month (6)
9 Take legal action about poor quality material of carving (6)
14 Irritating, having such feet when one wants to travel (5)

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Paul Elliott, left, lost a claim for damages against fellow footballer Dean Saunders. How long will it be before the referees find themselves in court, too?



A yellow card for the ref

Philip Lechain argues that it is only a matter of time before a referee is taken to court accused of negligence

The wide condemnation of the injuries sustained by the England rugby fullback Jonathan Callard in the June 7 match between England and South Africa's Eastern Province has cast the spotlight once again on the question of responsibilities of referees to control foul play, particularly in the wake of recent criticism by doctors who have to treat injured players.

Elandre van der Berg, the Eastern Province lock forward, stamped on Callard's head, causing a substantial laceration uncomfortably close to his right eye. David Hands, *The Times*'s rugby correspondent, wrote on June 9 that: "Condemnation of the violent play and refereeing standards... has been widespread. Though there was chapter and verse on the incident from one of his touch judges... the referee awarded only a penalty."

Rugby Law 26 indicates that a player guilty of dangerous play should either be ordered off or cautioned that a repetition would lead to an ordering-off. Guidelines set out by the London Society of the Rugby Football Union Referees indicate that a player must be ordered off the field if he kicks another player who is lying on the ground, if he head-butts another player, or if he punches another player when the latter is in no position to defend himself. It is surely only a matter of time before

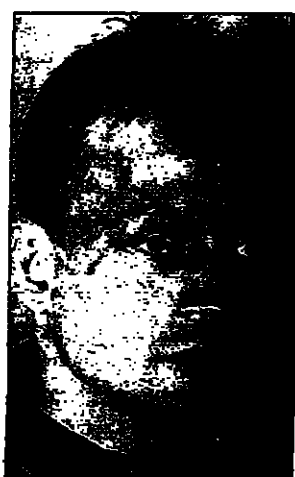
the failure of a referee to eradicate foul play from his match leads to a claim of negligence.

If the sports writers are correct in asserting that van der Berg should have been ordered off the field after his assault on Callard then it is submitted that any subsequent assault by him would have been actionable in tort.

As we await judicial determination on such issues, there can be no doubt that a referee owes a duty of care to players in his charge, comprising an obligation to enforce the laws of the game and to effect such control of the game as will ensure that the players are not exposed to unnecessary risk.

Apart from seeing that the unruly player is not allowed to remain on the field, the ambit of the rugby referee's duty of care will include the control of the front row of the scrum-mage and the prevention of repeated dangerous tackling.

Of all recorded injuries to rugby players from 1985 to 1990, 6 per cent were injuries to the neck and one third of those were serious. I know of two cases in the last three years alone where front-row players have been disabled as a result of collapsed scrum-mages, both incidents leading to a claim having been initiated against the referee. It is suggested that exactly



Jonathan Callard: injured

suggested that the duty of care for collapsed scrum-mages depends on the point at which the referee adjudges the collapse to be deliberate.

A refereeing expert would probably testify that a referee fell below the accepted standards unless he first made a general request to the front row to remain above his height, told the players what was expected after a first collapse, penalised at the second collapse, and then cautioned the offending player or players at the third collapse, sending off those involved.

It is suggested that exactly

the same approach would be applied to repeated high tackles or "short arm" tackles.

There have been some examples of referees "opting out" of the laws of rugby. There is anecdotal evidence of referees in England sending players to an imagined sin-bin for foul play, when the English rugby laws have never made such provision. A referee would have difficulty explaining his conduct to a judge if the player returned from the sin-bin only to inflict injury by foul play.

There are also said to have been events organised by clubs - for example, tournaments for children under 14 - where referees have been asked to apply laws different from those specifically framed for child safety. The referee would in that case be placing himself in double jeopardy because an insurer would be unlikely to indemnify a referee who played outside the laws of the game.

Although rugby union and rugby league by their very nature create situations in which an inadequate refereeing performance may attract civil liability, there are many other contact sports in which similar considerations apply. The recent action by the footballer Paul Elliott, who lost a claim against Dean Saunders after alleging a neg-

ligent tackle, and cases of single or repeated "professional" fouls, are the types of incident that might well attract liability against a referee. Or a hockey umpire who fails to halt repeated high sticking or repeated dangerous rising of the ball might find himself the subject of a claim for injury.

Cricket correspondents often express concern that a professional cricketer could be killed or maimed by short pitched bowling. Cricket Law 42 makes it plain that bowling of bouncers or beaters is unfair if, in the opinion of the umpire, it is an attempt to intimidate the striker.

The umpire who fails to call "no ball" for such a delivery and who fails to direct that the bowler be taken off after a second offence, may well find that he is sued by a batsman who is subsequently injured.

● The author is a barrister specialising in personal injuries and professional negligence, and a rugby referee with the London Society.

Legal aid franchising falls short of the mark

A new brand of "franchising" came into effect on August 1 to cover publicly-funded legal services. Granted by the Legal Aid Board to lawyers and others who provide such legal services, the concept behind these franchises is sound. But its final introduction has been rushed and poorly managed.

What emerges above all is the absence of any clear policy for the future provision of legally-aided services in this country. If that issue is not addressed, few firms will be able to meet the criteria for the grant of a franchise. Proper planning is not possible in the absence of clearly defined government objectives.

The franchising is aimed at providing an "accessible and quality assured service to clients giving improving value for money to the taxpayer". In return for minimum quality standards the law firms who are franchise holders will have delegated to them some of the existing powers of the Legal Aid Board. Specialist practitioners will be able to offer an immediate service to their clients. While the need to record the process of decision-making will cost time and increase overheads, franchised firms will receive preferential terms, particularly in relation to payments on account, thus easing cash flow difficulties.

The Legal Aid Board can take the credit for forcing the Law Society's timely introduction of its practice management standards. These take solicitors time and effort to implement, but the board's objective audits, carried out with remarkable tact, have provided the necessary spur for firms to complete work that many have planned for some time.

For the audit of individual files the board has turned to the novel concept of "transaction criteria", which involves testing the file against a standard. The information given to franchise applicants about systematic failures does much to enable them to lift their standards further. Work is also needed to discover how firms with low standards fare in the application of the transaction criteria.

But with the concept in place the board appeared to take fright. It produced a contract for signature by franchise applicants that was so one-sided as to put the whole undertaking at risk. It was backed by guidance on the use of delegated powers that served significantly to limit the way even the board's own officials exercised those powers in many parts of the country.

Even after last-minute negotiations with the Law Society, unsatisfactory aspects remain. The board still seems to have insufficient trust to delegate many essential powers to the profession. Meanwhile, with

lower interest rates and changes in the way costs are to be paid in civil actions, the financial incentives have lost much of their attraction.

Greater imagination will have to be shown. At the basic level the board must relieve the franchise holders of more form-filling. Once accounting systems have been audited, improved accounting procedures and more regular payments must be introduced. Legal aid practices lack capital for investment and time for research and training. The board must show a readiness to develop information technology for use by franchisees and make funds available to support investment.

The role of the franchise managers must be developed to encourage assistance in practice management and to provide training for both executive and support staff. Once a proper franchising partnership is established, based on genuine quality in return for real benefit, it should become the only way for lawyers to be paid from public funds. However, without real benefits, the board will not be able to honour its commitment that franchisees "meet all current and likely demand for legal services".

The legal aid fund is now essentially cash limited. There is a real danger that the Government, for want of any better policy, will take advantage of the franchising scheme to limit the number of outlets available. Priorities must be better planned than that.

The first step is to recognise that the cost of criminal legal aid distorts the use of the fund as a whole. A government tough on law and order brings more people before the criminal courts and amends procedures so that legal costs increase. It must be made to budget separately for such changes.

The remaining funds have to cover a wide range of needs. The distribution must be a matter for public accountability. It is a role that could be taken on by an invigorated Legal Aid Advisory Committee, a body largely emasculated on the introduction of the Legal Aid Board and now to be disbanded. The committee has recently published an important but largely unnoticed paper on the underlying principles of publicly funded legal services.

With a more representative composition it could and should be given the role of identifying the areas of work requiring funding and be able to place sufficient pressure on the Government to secure them. It should then work with the board to examine different ways in which services should be provided.

● The author is secretary of the London Criminal Courts Solicitors' Association.



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Illogical, Captain

CUSTOMS & Excise have issued a directive banning imports of "anthropomorphic representations of non-humans" from outside the European Union, including, apparently, Chinese teddy bears. Captain Kirk dolls seem to have escaped the ban. But what of Mr Spock? It seems that Vulcans are deemed not to emanate from within the European Union and fall within the ban. We are supposed to be entering an era of deregulation. Perhaps Customs & Excise have not heard.

Better cover

RADICAL new laws aimed at reducing conflict in the construction industry could be in place by 1996 if the Government adopts the recommendations of Sir Michael Latham's report on the industry.

The report proposes legal protection for contractors and sub-contractors when clients go under; the compulsory use by the industry of the non-adversarial New Engineering Contract; and a requirement that clients protect contractors by paying project money into trust funds.



Mr Spock: ban on dolls

Company policy

SOLICITORS used to the service at Companies House may have to get used to a different style in future. The Trade Department has announced a policy review, which could result in the contracting-out of most services provided by Companies House.

About turn

NABARRO Nathanson is reversing the trend of regional law firms opening London offices by opening in Sheffield. The office will replace the

OUTS

unsatisfactory Doncaster premises inherited when the firm took over the legal department of British Coal. The office, in Steel Plaza, will open in October.

Cut-price

THE City law firm McKenna's this week launches its specialist solicitor advocacy service for planning inquiries and disputes. The idea is to encourage clients to use solicitors as advocates rather than instructing a barrister. The saving, says the firm, could exceed 30 per cent of total fees.

Alcohol survey

LAWYERS should watch out for suspicious individuals clutching clipboards and lurking in their favourite watering hole.

The Law Society and Bar Council are funding research to identify the extent of alcohol-related problems in the legal profession. The Lawyers Support Group is conducting the research and would like any lawyers who have suffered problems with alcohol either personally or in relation to colleagues to contact them in strictest confidence at St

Giles Church, Off Wood Street, Barbican, London EC2 (081-870 1601).

Fresh fields

ALISTAIR Dougall, 34, co-founder of the recruitment consultants Quarry Dougall is leaving to launch a new career as a teacher. He says: "Quarry Dougall is going from strength to strength and it would be easy to stay and do well financially. But I want to do something different." Mr Dougall will keep a financial stake in the company and stay on as a consultant.

Bear necessity

FAMILY problems? Troubles in your marriage? Call in Rupert Bear. Not the much-loved children's book character but the real Rupert Bear of Rupert Bear and Co in Nottingham. Mr Bear is a leading practitioner in family and matrimonial law who left a larger firm to set up his own practice. But he is a little wary of being too closely associated with the cartoon character. A spokesman, David Hooper, says: "People choose us because of our reputation, but I suppose they remember us because of the name. Perhaps it does sound more personal. It might be difficult for a City firm to be called Rupert Bear."

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OTHER SPORT:
CYCLING: Kellogg's Tour of Britain.

[illegible]

King's Theatre is warm order for York

By JULIAN MUSCAT

KING'S Theatre, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes winner, has been installed as a warm favourite to follow up in the Juddmonte International Stakes at York a week today.

William Hills yesterday installed the Henry Cecil-trained colt at 11-8 for the 10-furlong test. Muhtarram, the Prince of Wales's Stakes winner, is a 3-1 chance. Hills then bet 4-1 against last year's winner, Szoud, 8-1 Chatterant, 10-1 Bob's Return and 12-1 Alfara.

Other prices are available on request, although the six horses quoted will make up

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ISLAND OF SILVER (2.30 Bath)
Next best: Minnesota Viking (5.15 Yarmouth)

the core of the field. Turtle Island may yet be added to the list of likely runners should fast ground force Robert Sangster's colt to miss the Prix Jacques le Marois at Deauville on Sunday.

Whatever Turtle Island's fate, King's Theatre will attract all the attention in the build-up to the International. The three-year-old seemed exposed as a cut below the very best at reaching the frame in three classics. However, his emphatic Ascot defeat of White Muzzle showed the colt in a different light, an impression readily confirmed by Cecil yesterday.

"He was definitely at his best in the King George," the trainer said. "He really came to himself and remains in good order. They are also expecting a bit of rain at York, which will help him. He's not too bothered by the ground as long as it isn't fast."

That was the case when King's Theatre contested the Dante Stakes over the course and distance in May. On that occasion, the son of Sadler's Wells, who has already attracted interest from prospective purchasers, faded in the straight to finish fourth be-



King's Theatre and Michael Kinane power clear for an impressive victory in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot

hind Erhaab. Cecil will be keen to erase not just that memory, but also the defeat of his Sabrehill, who collected a career-ending injury when favourite for last year's International.

Also among Cecil's team for York are Politar (Lonsdale Stakes), State Crystal and possibly Milly Ha Ha (Yorkshire Oaks), Charnwood Forest (Convivial Stakes) and Dover Patrol (Ebor). Tom Waller misses the latter race but may contest the Melrose Handicap.

While the watered ground at Ascot was to King's Theatre's advantage, Mark Tomp-

kins, the trainer of Bob's Return, felt the racecourse executive had played its part in the colt's disappointing eighth place. "I don't like to see the racecourse executives water the ground once at a meeting has started," Tompkins said.

"Basically, I felt it was very loose on top. It didn't help my horse, nor did the loose horse [Szoud], so I am inclined to forget the whole thing."

Erhaab, another Ascot disappointment, is to undergo a further veterinary examination at John Dunlop's Arundel stables this morning. A leading American war has been flown in to examine the Derby winner after an initial assessment failed to identify what has been troubling the horse.

Erhaab returned home from Ascot with a damaged knee, which was X-rayed last week. "He has completely recovered from his injury and is perfectly sound now," the trainer said yesterday, "but I don't think his knee is the fundamental problem. None of us is fully confident about his physical status, which is why a fresh pair of eyes should help us."

"The original X-rays on his knee told us nothing new but there was a slight suggestion there was something there," Dunlop continued. "Although he is sound, we don't know what will happen were we to work him again."

After landing the Derby, Erhaab returned from his Eclipse bid with a sore hamstring in his near-hind quarters and the problem flared up in his preparation for the King George. Connections are clearly anxious to find the root cause.

Lester Piggott was fined 3,000 kroner (£250) by the Swedish stewards yesterday for not turning up at Jagersro, Malmo, on Sunday. Piggott, who had been booked for six mounts on Swedish Derby day, preferred to ride the Queen's Sharp Prod, second to Munaj, at Hoppegarten in Germany.

Done Well on duty at Deauville

WALTER Swinburn rides the Alex Scott-trained Done Well, a recent winner at Newmarket, in the £13,730 Prix du Haras de la Huderie (7) at Deauville today. Another British hope in this event is the Molecomb Stakes fourth, Great Bear (John Reid), trained by Fulke Johnson Houghton.

Half of the six runners are handled by André Fabre, including Eddery's mount, Take Liberties, who is owned by the champion jockey's agent and brother-in-law, Terry Ellis.

Swinburn has also been booked by Robert Armstrong to ride Danish Heights, who faces eight rivals, including the Peter Chapple-Hyam-trained Delta One, in the £13,730 Prix de Tourneville (1m).

Games end on sour note with Holland under fire

Jenny MacArthur reports on the poor organisation that marred the World Equestrian Games

THE slick final of the world show jumping championships on Sunday, the last event of the World Equestrian Games here in The Hague, masked an evanescent fortnight in which Holland's failure to build on the success of the inaugural games in Sweden four years ago has undermined the concept of such an equestrian extravaganza.

Holland, which has regularly organised successful championships for individual disciplines — most recently the 1989 European show jumping championships in Rotterdam — believed it could host the Games without any of the practice events that had been a feature of the build-up to the Stockholm event.

Having chosen two untried equestrian sites — the Zuiderpark in The Hague and the De Vlasakkers military base, near Utrecht, for the speed and endurance, and marathon — the organisers paid dearly for their arrogance. An incomplete infrastructure, ineffective transport system, inadequate grooming facilities and stables too small and too far from the stadium were among the more glaring deficiencies.

Michael Freund, the German who became world driving champion on Sunday, used his post-medal press conference to criticise the course, the facilities for the horses, and the distance between The Hague and De Vlasakkers. He called on the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) to "look at alternative possibilities for the championships". Endurance riders, three-day eventers and show jumpers all support a return to separate championships for each discipline.

The ambitious idea for a World Equestrian Games — at which the world championships in the six disciplines of show jumping, three-day eventing, dressage, endurance riding, carriage driving and vaulting would be held — was first suggested by the Duke of Edinburgh at the general assembly of the FEI, of which he was president, in 1983.

Ulf Rosengren, the director-general of the Swedish Federation, seized upon the idea. "It was a thrilling prospect and seemed incomparable with regard to media attention." The impact of the Stockholm Games more than fulfilled both Sweden's and the FEI's expectations.

Post-Stockholm euphoria persuaded the FEI to abandon the original idea of the Games as a "one-off" event. Paris, one of several bidders, was originally awarded the 1994 Games. When, at the end of 1991, Paris had to withdraw for financial reasons, the Dutch stepped in. "We knew we were taking a risk," Aarnout Louidon, the beleaguered president of the Games, said last week, "but we thought if we didn't do it then that's the end of the World Equestrian Games."

By Sunday, Louidon, the former chairman of the Dutch pharmaceutical company, Alcon-Nobel, was regretting that decision. "If we had known the problems we were going to have with the building of the stadium we may not have gone ahead," he said. He blamed the difficulties squarely on the tight time schedule and low budget — £9 million compared with £13.5 million in Stockholm.

But money would not have solved the problem of unsuitable venues. "The facilities and atmosphere we've had here just don't compare with those in a proper show jumping stadium such as Aachen," Ronnie Massarella, the Great Britain show jumping team manager, said.

The next World Equestrian Games, in 1998, have already been allotted to Ireland, Portugal, Spain and the United States are putting together bids for 2002. The bureaucratic bandwagon rolls on, but who is listening to the riders?

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Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.30 ISLAND OF SILVER (nap).

2.00 AUGUST SELLING STAKES (£2,423; 1m 5y) (13 runners)
101 (1) 000110 DADO 11 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
102 (2) 000108 MURDOCK 11 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
103 (3) 000100 SINGULAR 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
104 (4) 000102 BALLYVALE 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
105 (5) 000104 KAVON REACH 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
106 (6) 000106 ALTO BELLA 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
107 (7) 000108 DEAN LASS 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
108 (8) 000110 MULLY'S PET 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
109 (9) 000112 RODMAN 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
110 (10) 000114 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
111 (11) 000116 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
112 (12) 000118 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
113 (13) 000120 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11

2.30 UPAVON FILLIES STAKES (Listed race; £3,541; 1m 2y) (8 runners)
101 (1) 000110 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
102 (2) 000112 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
103 (3) 000114 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
104 (4) 000116 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
105 (5) 000118 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
106 (6) 000120 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
107 (7) 000122 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
108 (8) 000124 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11

3.00 TRIPLECROWN MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (2-Y-O; £3,541; 1m 2y) (6 runners)
101 (1) 000110 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
102 (2) 000112 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
103 (3) 000114 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
104 (4) 000116 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
105 (5) 000118 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
106 (6) 000120 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11

3.30 BBC RADIO BRISTOL HANDICAP (£3,397; 2m 11y) (6 runners)
101 (1) 000110 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
102 (2) 000112 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
103 (3) 000114 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
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106 (6) 000120 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11

4.00 LUCKINGTON LIMITED STAKES (£2,804; 5f 11y) (8 runners)
101 (1) 000110 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
102 (2) 000112 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
103 (3) 000114 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
104 (4) 000116 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
105 (5) 000118 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
106 (6) 000120 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
107 (7) 000122 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
108 (8) 000124 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11

4.30 MILE MAIDEN HANDICAP (£3,077; 1m 5y) (13 runners)
101 (1) 000110 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
102 (2) 000112 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
103 (3) 000114 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
104 (4) 000116 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
105 (5) 000118 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
106 (6) 000120 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
107 (7) 000122 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
108 (8) 000124 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11

4.30 MILE MAIDEN HANDICAP (£3,077; 1m 5y) (13 runners)
101 (1) 000110 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
102 (2) 000112 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
103 (3) 000114 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
104 (4) 000116 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
105 (5) 000118 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
106 (6) 000120 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
107 (7) 000122 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
108 (8) 000124 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11

5.00 ROYAL CRESSLEY HANDICAP (£3,465; 1m 31y) (6 runners)
101 (1) 000110 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
102 (2) 000112 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
103 (3) 000114 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
104 (4) 000116 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
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106 (6) 000120 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11

YARMOUTH
THUNDERER
2.15 Market Bays Claiming Stakes (3-Y-O; £2,541; 1m 2y) (5 runners)
101 (1) 000110 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
102 (2) 000112 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
103 (3) 000114 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
104 (4) 000116 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
105 (5) 000118 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11

2.15 MARKET BAYS CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O; £2,541; 1m 2y) (5 runners)
101 (1) 000110 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
102 (2) 000112 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
103 (3) 000114 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
104 (4) 000116 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
105 (5) 000118 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11

2.45 MAIDEN HANDICAP (£4,541; 1m 31y) (6 runners)
101 (1) 000110 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
102 (2) 000112 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
103 (3) 000114 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
104 (4) 000116 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
105 (5) 000118 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
106 (6) 000120 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11

3.15 LEVY ROAD MAIDEN HANDICAP (£3,158; 7f 5y) (8 runners)
101 (1) 000110 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
102 (2) 000112 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
103 (3) 000114 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
104 (4) 000116 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
105 (5) 000118 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
106 (6) 000120 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11

3.45 CAVER CASTLE FILLES CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O; £4,541; 7f 5y) (5 runners)
101 (1) 000110 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
102 (2) 000112 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
103 (3) 000114 DANCE TO THE TOP 10 (G.F.) (S) M. J. Moore 5-11
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SPORT

TUESDAY AUGUST 9 1994

Three false starts fail to distract British athletics captain

Christie captures unique treble

FROM DAVID MILLER IN HELSINKI

THREE false starts, the second by him, were not enough to disrupt Linford Christie's renowned concentration yesterday. Sprinting almost with ease, he strode down Helsinki's Olympic track to record a unique third 100 metres title in the European championships. There is no one like him for the big occasion.

British morale had already been buoyed by Steve Backley's triumph in the javelin an hour or so earlier, though Christie is not one to need such peripheral encouragement. After a comfortable semi-final victory two hours previously, he came to the line as focused as he has ever been. Something remarkable was going to be needed to deny him his ninth championship gold medal and his 21st medal overall — a greater haul than any British athlete has achieved.

The Olympic and world champion had that familiar, slightly glazed look as he came to the blocks to defend his title for the second time, staring ahead down his lane as

meetings, though the time was certainly slow for him despite the warm evening. Earlier this season, he had run a wind-assisted 9.91sec in Sheffield.

Christie, who did not win his first leading title, the European indoor 200 metres in 1986, until he was 26, has certainly come along way. This was by no means his finest achievement but it will have done him immense satisfaction in proving that, in Europe at least, he is still out there at the top.

There has inevitably been a degree of uncertainty about the severity of the hamstring injury sustained at Crystal Palace, when he finished second to Jon Drummond, on July 15. Yet any sort of a tear to the hamstring is most unlikely to repair itself within the space of three weeks.

The only cure for this injury is rest, yet, within a week, Christie was said to be back training after visiting his specialist in Munich. There is little treatment that can accelerate the repair to a tear and part of the body's mechanism to prevent itself from self-destructing is that the nervous system inhibits the muscle, or tendon, until it is recovered. This would have prevented Christie from training so soon.

Professor David Martin, a physiologist with extensive experience in athletic injuries, at Georgia University, Atlanta, expresses doubt whether Christie could have had a real tear. "It will be interesting to know," Martin said yesterday, "to which part of the hamstring the injury had occurred — the muscle bulk, the area where the muscle refines into the tendon or the point at which the tendon attaches itself to the bone. None of these repair quickly, particularly the latter two."

The suspicion inevitably arises that if Christie experienced a twinge when losing at Crystal Palace, he utilised this situation to give himself a rest from over-racing in recent months in order to be able to prepare exclusively for retaining his European title. Being out of action would also, of course, avoid the problem of confronting Leroy Burrell, of the United States, who had just broken the world record in Lausanne.

Christie would not have wanted to be put under the pressure of defending his reputation at that moment, so even a comparatively minor strain at Crystal Palace would have offered him a legitimate excuse to opt out of appointments prior to Helsinki.

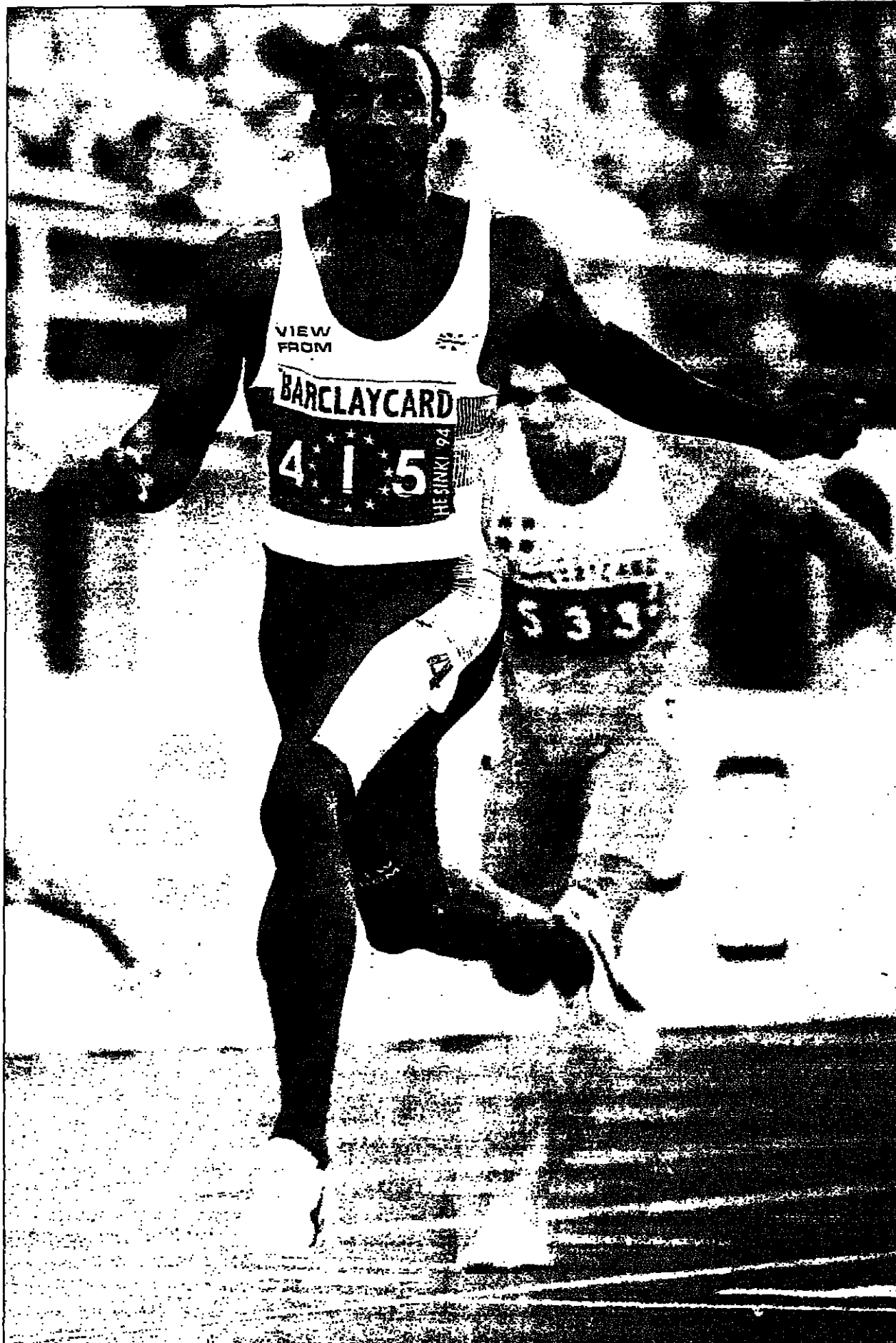
though it disappeared into infinity. A shake of the legs, a few leaps and he was ready.

The first false start was by Moen, of Norway. Back they went for a second attempt but, now, it was Christie. Calmly, he acknowledged his error to the packed crowd and to the starter. Yet again the starter failed to get them away. Kramarenko, of Ukraine, being out of his blocks early. Fourth time lucky, but Christie, necessarily cautious, was slow and, after ten metres, it was Moen in the lead, and still ahead after 20 metres.

Yet between there and the halfway mark, Christie's surging stride carried him to the front and the finish in 10.14sec, with Moen second and Porkhomovskiy, of Russia, third. Jason John, of Britain, finished eighth.

Christie's face was expressionless as he waved to the crowd, almost as though it was an anti-climax. It was not until he met Backley in the exit tunnel, the pair embracing, that Christie smiled for the first time. At 34, he was entitled to feel pleased with himself.

There had been no sign of the thigh strain that, three weeks ago, caused him to withdraw from his next three



Christie displays the class that secured him a third European 100 metres title in Helsinki yesterday

Radford confident Wariso alone took banned drug

FROM DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
IN HELSINKI

PROFESSOR Peter Radford, the executive chairman of the British Athletic Federation (BAF), said yesterday that he felt sure that no further members of the Great Britain team at the European championships would be found with traces of ephedrine, a stimulant, in their system.

Radford said as much after investigating a claim by Solomon Wariso, who was withdrawn from the team after a drugs test sample revealed ephedrine in his urine, that two British team members had passed him the

pills and that one of the two had assured him they would not cause him to fail a drugs test.

Wariso, the AAA 200 metres champion, had said that, when receiving the pills, only six of an original pot of 30 were left. It raised questions as to whether the athletes who had passed them to him might have taken some prior to a competition for which the drugs tests results are not yet known.

Radford said that he had obtained the two athletes' identities and had spoken with them. "My view is that there are no more skeletons in the cupboard," he said. "I am satisfied as far as I can reasonably be."

Wariso has admitted to taking a

preparation known as "Up Your Gas", but said that he consumed the pills 30 minutes before competing at the international meeting in Gateshead on July 1 not realising that one of the ingredients on the label, Ma Huang, contained ephedrine.

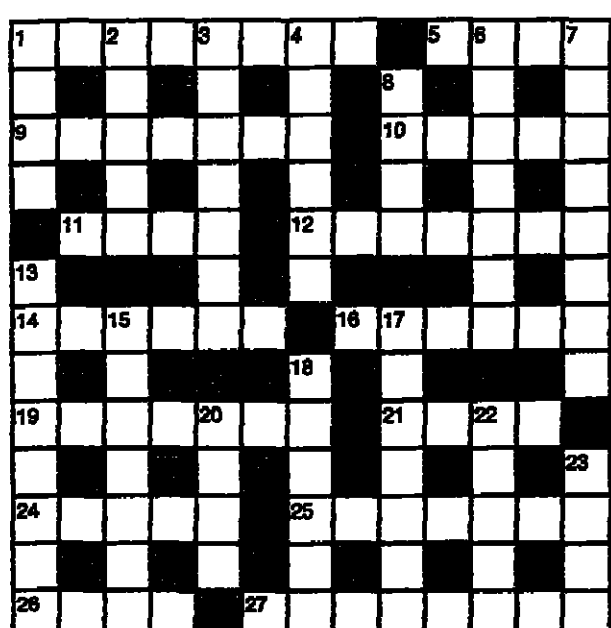
Radford believes that Wariso took the ephedrine "inadvertently". He said: "This was done by a young man who made a genuine mistake." The executive chairman added, however, that it was not always easy to remember when herbal pills had been taken. "When you start asking questions, it is like walking into a dense fog because you are asking questions they have a very imprecise memory of."

Radford said that the federation would need to look at improving its process of educating athletes about potential drugs traps. "We have to do more than we have because of the plethora of herbal concoctions with unknown substances and unknown ingredients," Radford said.

Sergei Kirmasov, a Russian hammer thrower, faces a four-year ban after testing positive for banned steroids, the International Amateur Athletic Federation said yesterday. The 24-year-old, who won the European junior title in 1989, was found to have used stanozolol, a steroid found in the body of Ben Johnson, the Canadian sprinter, at the 1988 Olympics.



Wariso: took pills on July 1



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TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD
No 236

ACROSS

- 1 Acknowledge applause (4,1,3)
- 5 Jason's Golden-Fleece-seeking ship (4)
- 9 Reluctant to do a job (4-3)
- 10 Temporary suspension of hostilities (5)
- 11 Festive occasion (4)
- 12 Pleasant sound (esp. of voices) (7)
- 14 Westminster bell (3,3)
- 16 Deteriorate (6)
- 19 Become more opaque (7)
- 21 Catch sight of (4)
- 24 Tsar's edict (5)
- 25 Killing of a god (7)
- 26 Secured (4)
- 27 Inability to resist temptation (8)

DOWN

- 1 Scottish strap (4)
- 2 Destiny, fate (5)
- 3 Stake (7)
- 4 Gas essential for breathing (6)
- 6 Cacophonous (7)
- 7 Singly (3,2,3)
- 8 Measure; pace (4)
- 13 Hinder (8)
- 15 Facial expression of disgust, pain (7)
- 17 Tapering stone pillar (7)
- 18 Tense; upright (2,4)
- 20 Was aware of (4)
- 22 Tom — Rights of Man author (5)
- 23 Head: a loch (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 235

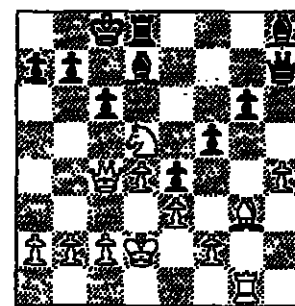
ACROSS: 1 Felucca 2 David 3 Run in 9 Low-down
10 Aye 11 Home Guard 12 Or else 14 Cave in 17 Bon voy-
age 18 Son 19 Febrile 20 Brawl 21 Green 22 Trebles
DOWN: 1 Farrago 2 Lance 3 Con 4 Aplomb 5 Down-
grade 6 Violate 7 Tuned 11 Historian 13 Ennoble 15 Non-
plus 16 Talent 17 Befog 18 Shawl 20 Bye

WINNING
By Raymond Keene

This position is a variation from the game Flear-Holbeck, Neuenberg 1994. The black king looks secure, but White has a neat way to open up the defences. Can you see how?

Solution, page 35

Raymond Keene, page 7



By Philip Howard

FILIBEG
a. Copper leaf
b. A kilt
c. To beg off a friend

GRINAGOG
a. Zoroastrian temple
b. Poisonous toad
c. One who is always grinning

PLENARIUM
a. A full set
b. A digestive enzyme
c. A quorum
QUANTASOME
a. Not a lot
b. Greedy
c. A fundamental body

Answers on page 35

Hick believes
he has found
right place in
batting order

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

IT TOOK Graeme Hick three years and three months, 16 Tests and 26 innings to do it. Yesterday, bells peeled and prayers were offered throughout the kingdom after he finally scored a Test century in his adopted country as England drew with South Africa at Headingley. Put out the flags and fire off the noonday gun.

As it could also be pointed out that Hick made his runs against an attack missing Allan Donald on a flat pitch when the South Africans preferred containment to attack, not even Hick was crowing about it.

He did not play outstandingly well but he may have crossed a psychological as well as a statistical barrier.

"I would not say it was my best innings," he admitted. "On occasions I have played much better and come away with 20 or 30 instead of the hundred I got today. There is no sort of logic to it. I prefer to take my game to the bowlers and this was not a pitch on which you could run the ball around."

In future, Hick will be his own man at all times. "I have spent too much time listening to other people telling me what to do. The No 3 position is where I feel most comfortable, whether I get a duck or make a century."

"I missed out on one at the Oval last year against Australia and it is nice to get the first one in England out of the way."

Michael Atherton gave a curious performance at the press conference, as though he had been hypnotised. The dislocated little finger of his left hand was put back into place by Dave Roberts, the England physiotherapist, but the emotional wounds of the past fortnight will take longer to heal.

Quite deliberately he dead-batted the questions of Jonathan Agnew, the BBC cricket correspondent. He met further probing of a gentle nature with a coolness that betokened resentment of much that has been written about him since the events at Lord's two Saturdays ago.

Clearly, it is a public performance because privately he remains on amicable terms with journalists.

In particular he is offended by the behaviour of two tabloid newspapers. One trailed him by car in the Lakes last week and another sent a reporter to a pub where he had dined.

On the Test itself Atherton said: "When you make 477 at Headingley you expect to have a chance of winning the match. I thought that for the first four days we showed a lot of belief in ourselves. The real match-saving partnership was on Saturday afternoon between Jonny Rhodes and Peter Kirsten."

"In recent years we have played fairly well at the Oval where there is more carry on the ball and we must hope to be on our best form there next week. The South Africans did not make it easy for us here."



Hick: barrier crossed

We are disappointed not to have won but pleased to have put in a better performance than we did at Lord's."

Graham Gooch will have more treatment on his injured hamstring and hopes to play at the Oval. South Africa still hope that Donald, who has a poisoned toe, will be available to bowl at him.

Robin Smith, dropped by England after the series against New Zealand, has been offered a winter contract with Western Province, worth around £20,000. If he fails to win selection in the England touring party to Australia, which is expected to be named early next month.

Report, page 38
Photograph, page 38
Warwickshire draw, page 38

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